THE CHILLING ARCHIVES OF HORROR COMICS!™

HAUNTED HORROR™

#21

MADAM CLIZIA

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VALENTINE'S DAY IS UPON US (SHUDDER!), THE WORST DAY OF THE YEAR! HAVE YOU EVER HAD YOUR HEART SHATTERED BY SOME FOOL LOVER? THEN, I HAVE SOME GOOD ADVICE FOR YOU, MY SLIMY DIDYMOS*! COME CLOSER, MY MINIONS, AND HEAR MY HEART BEATING. YOU DON'T HEAR ANYTHING? THAT'S BECAUSE I KEEP MY HEART IN A BOX NEXT TO ANUBIS, MY WATCH-GOD-DOG. (WHO'S A GOOD BOY?!) AND THAT'S MY ADVICE TO YOU, MY LITTLE TOADIES: FOLLOW YOUR HEARTS, BUT ALWAYS CARRY A BLUNT WEAPON!
(LOOK IT UP, IT'S REALLY GROSS!).

Art by
Drazen Kozjan

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Look for another spine-tingling issue of *Haunted Horror* in two months!

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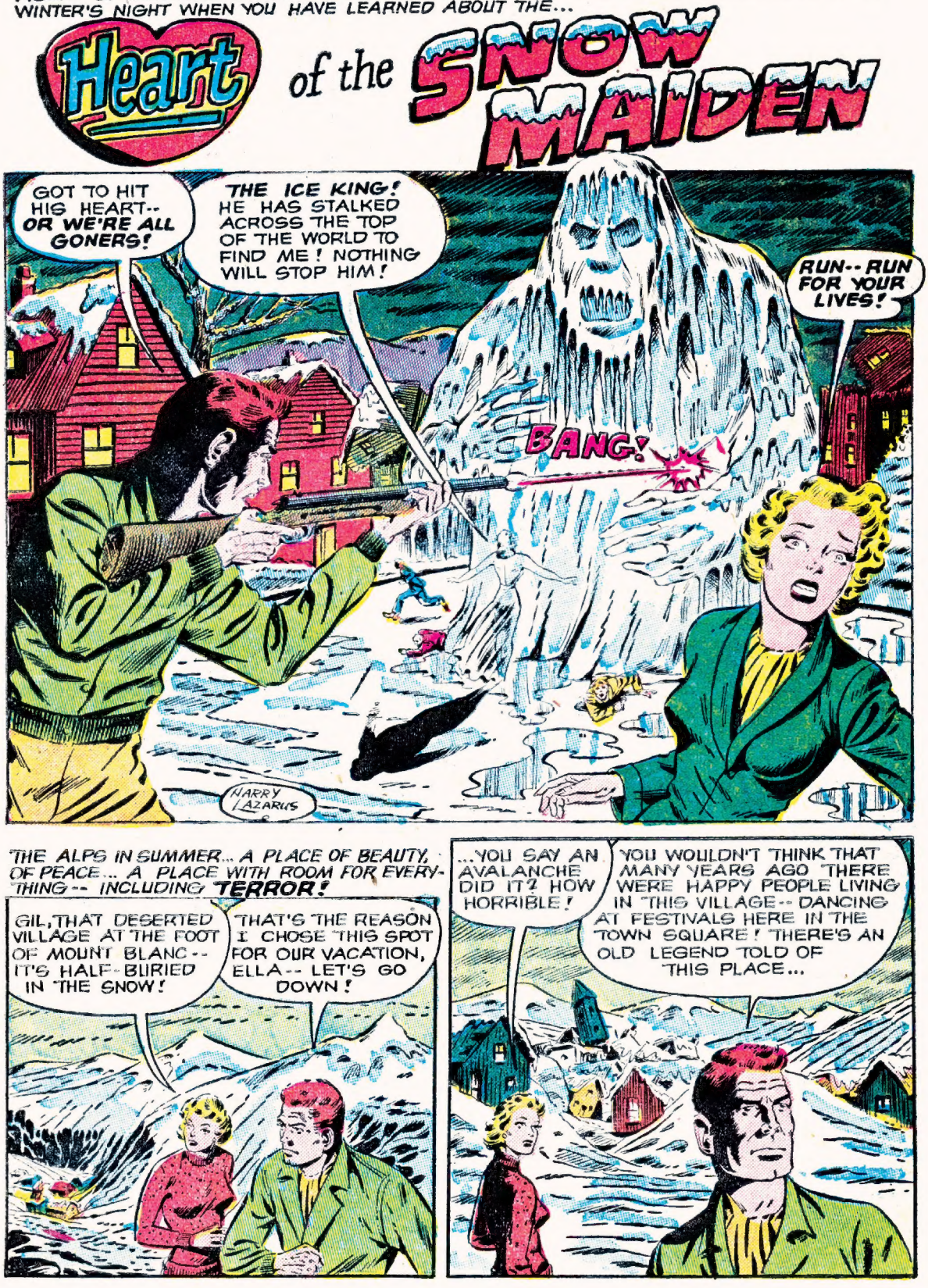
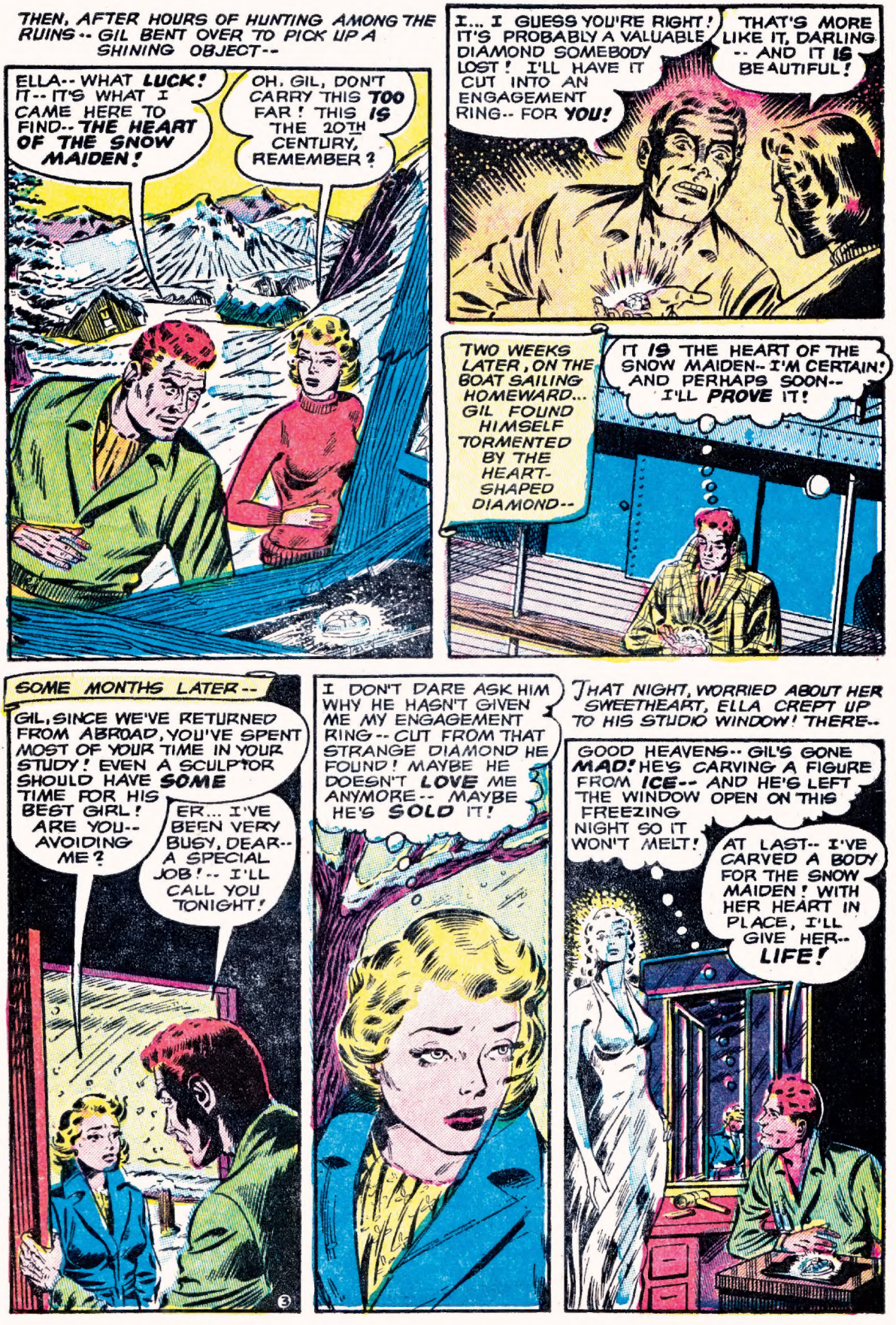
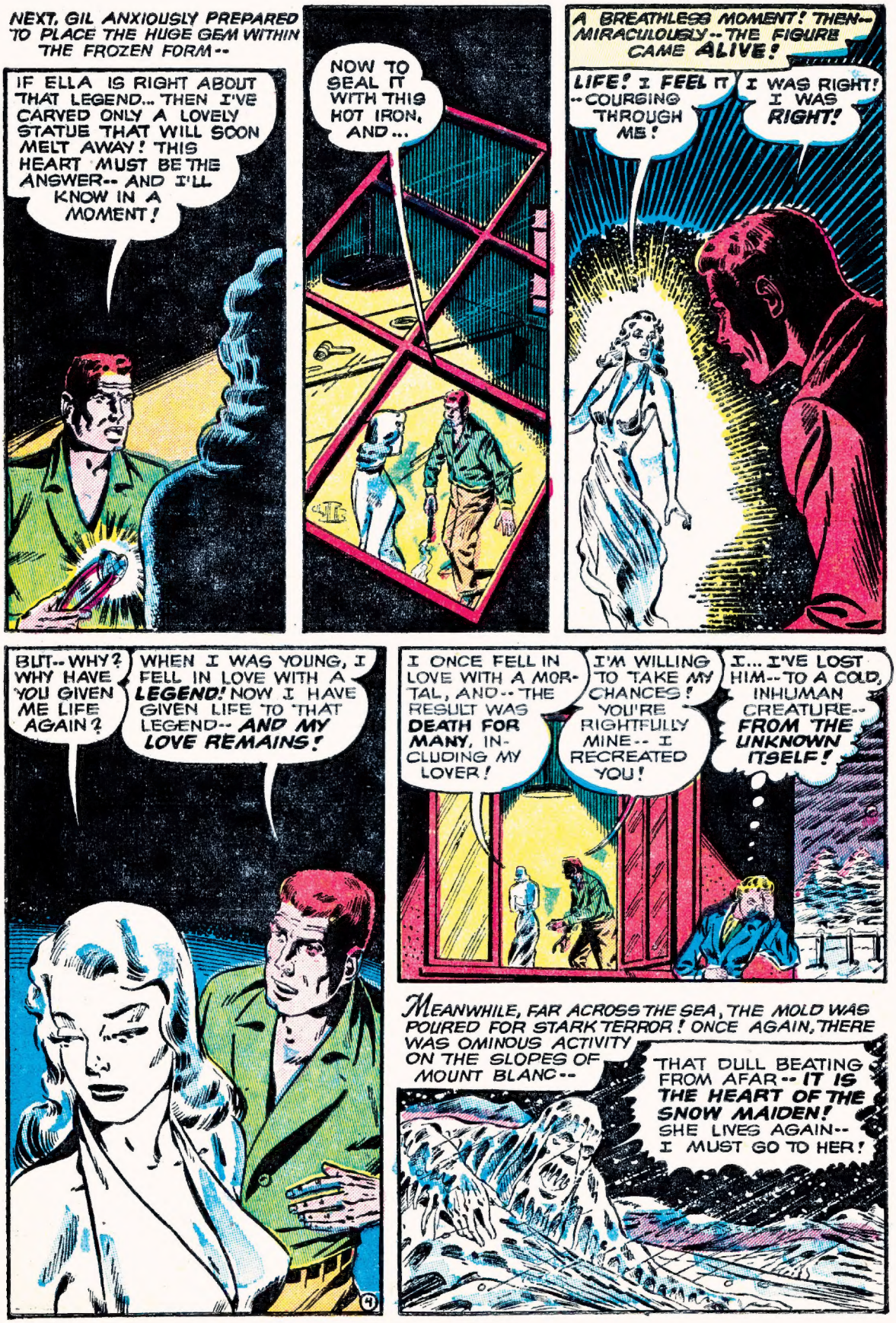
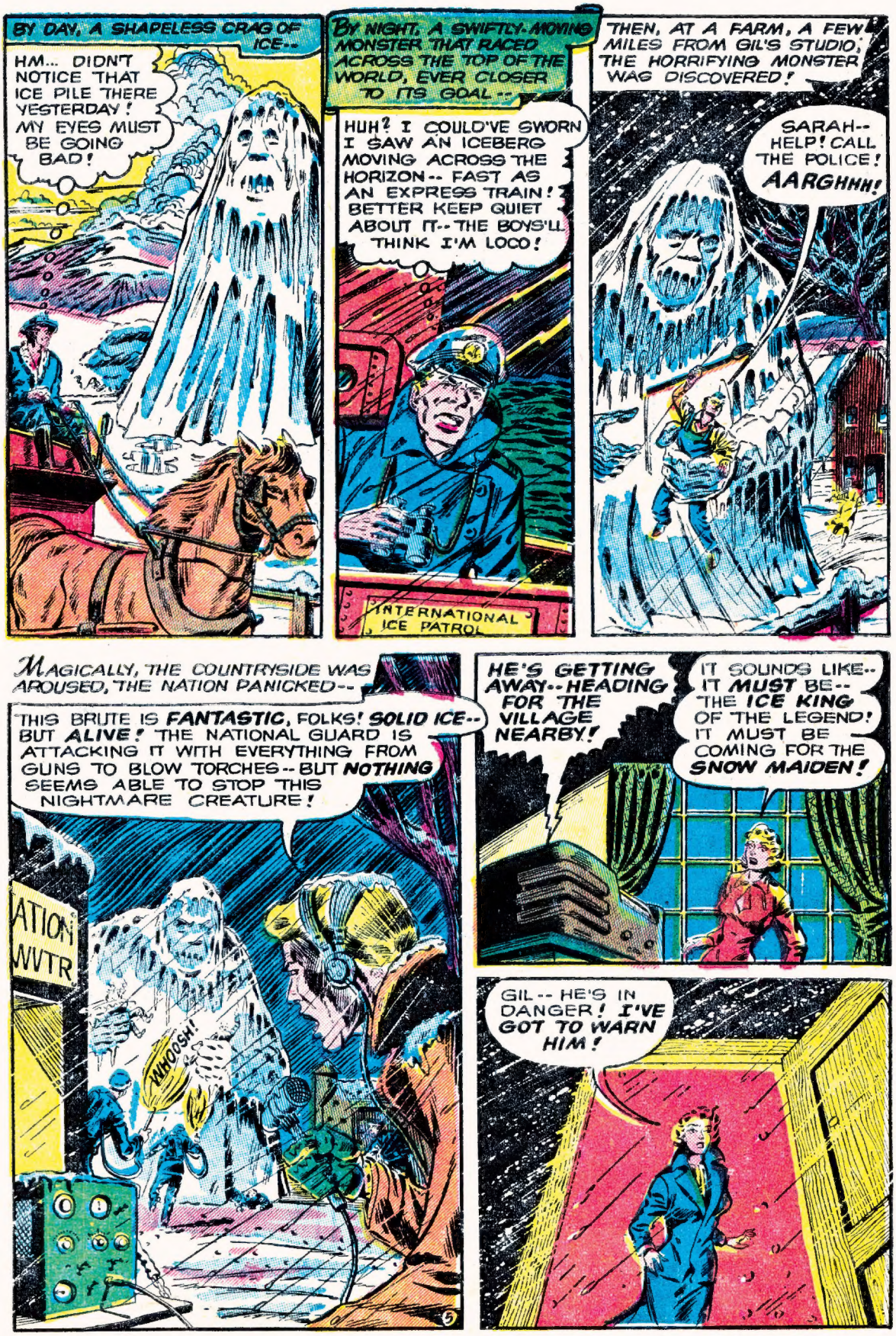

WHAT IS THAT TINY SPARK OF LIFE FORCE THAT MAKES A THING LIVE-- MAKES A MAN DIFFERENT FROM A LUMP OF CLAY? IF WE KNEW, WE MIGHT UNDERSTAND HOW A MASS OF ICE COULD MOVE, THINK, AND FEEL-- HOW IT COULD BECOME A FEARFUL AGENT OF DESTRUCTION WHEN BALKED IN LOVE! WE THINK YOU MAY SLEEP LESS ON A WINTER'S NIGHT WHEN YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE...
Heart
of the SNOW MAIDEN
GOT TO HIT HIS HEART-- OR WE'RE ALL GONERS!
THE ICE KING! HE HAS STALKED ACROSS THE TOP OF THE WORLD TO FIND ME! NOTHING WILL STOP HIM!
RUN-- RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
BANG!
HARRY LAZARUS
THE ALPS IN SUMMER... A PLACE OF BEAUTY, OF PEACE... A PLACE WITH ROOM FOR EVERYTHING-- INCLUDING TERROR!
GIL, THAT DESERTED VILLAGE AT THE FOOT OF MOUNT BLANC-- IT'S HALF-BURIED IN THE SNOW!
THAT'S THE REASON I CHOSE THIS SPOT FOR OUR VACATION, ELLA-- LET'S GO DOWN!
...YOU SAY AN AVALANCHE DID IT? HOW HORRIBLE!
YOU WOULDN'T THINK THAT MANY YEARS AGO THERE WERE HAPPY PEOPLE LIVING IN THIS VILLAGE-- DANCING AT FESTIVALS HERE IN THE TOWN SQUARE! THERE'S AN OLD LEGEND TOLD OF THIS PLACE...

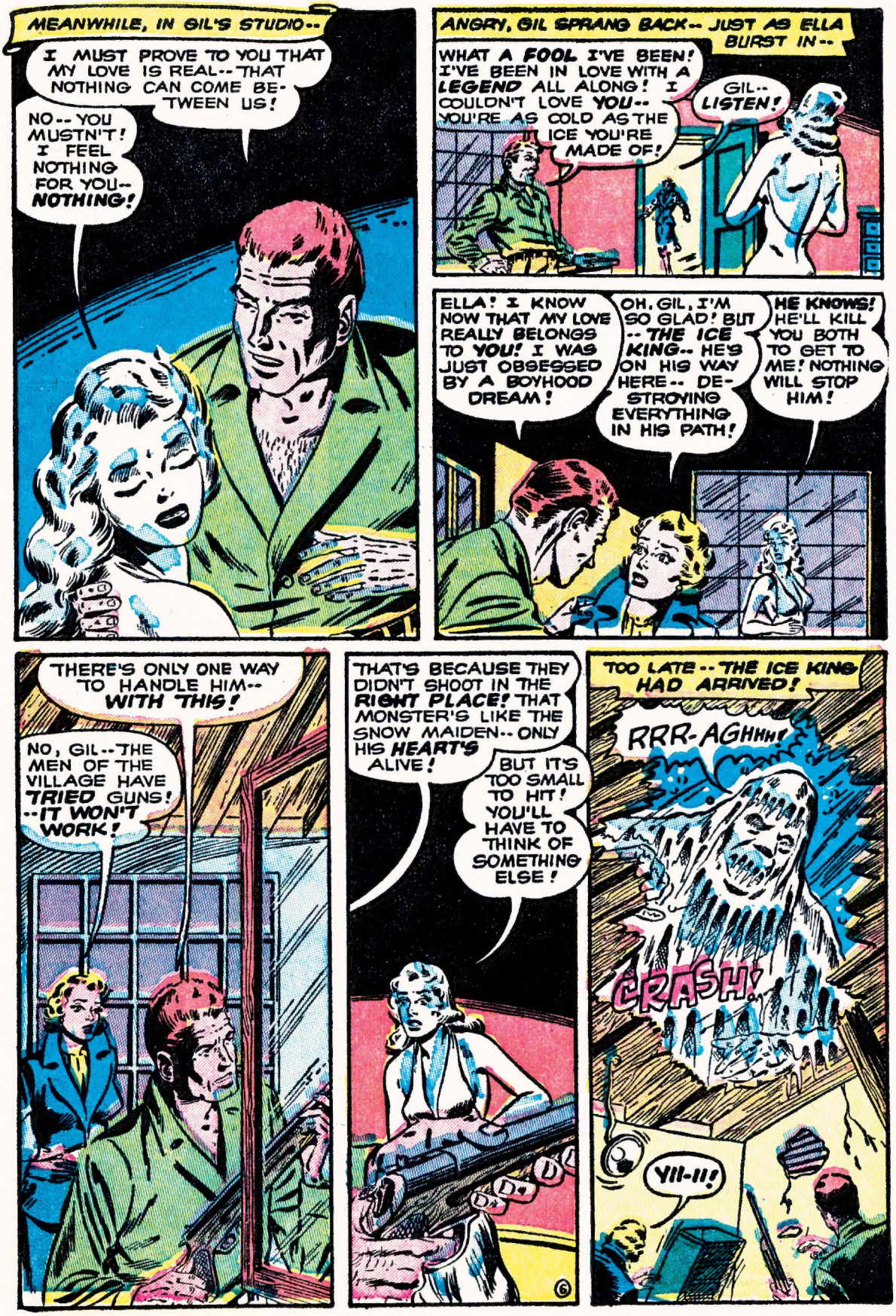
Adventures Into The Unknown #40, February 1953. Art: Harry Lazarus. Publisher: ACG.

"LONG AGO," GIL BEGAN, "A FRIENDLY SPRITE KNOWN AS THE SNOW MAIDEN WOULD SOMETIMES COME DOWN FROM HER ICY HOME ON THE MOUNTAIN AND JOIN IN THE DANCING--"
"SHE WAS A LIVING STATUE OF SOLID ICE, WHITE, COLD, AND-- VERY BEAUTIFUL! SO LONG AS SHE WAS A REMOTE SEMI-GODDESS, THE VILLAGERS LOVED HER..."
"...UNTIL ONE DAY, SHE DEFIED THE TIMELESS LAW THAT GOVERNS THE MORTAL AND IMMORTAL--SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH A HUMAN!"
THEY ARE WRONG WHO SAY MY HEART IS COLD! FOR YOU, IT BURNS LIKE A CRYSTAL FLAME!
THUS THE FORCES OF TRAGEDY WERE UNLEASHED! HIGH ON MOUNT BLANC, A MONSTROUS FORCE STIRRED--WHO CLAIMED THE SNOW MAIDEN FOR HIS OWN--THE ICE KING!"
SHE DARES FORSAKE ME? THEN SHE MUST DIE--WITH HIM WHO STOLE HER FROM ME!
CRASH! RUMBLE!
SO DIED THE SNOW MAIDEN--BURIED UNDER A MOUNTAIN OF SNOW, ALONG WITH THE ENTIRE VILLAGE--"
MY BELOVED --NO! AGHHH!
CRACK!
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL LEGEND--BUT RATHER SILLY, ISN'T IT?
MAYBE... BUT EVER SINCE I FIRST HEARD IT AS A KID, I'VE BELIEVED IT!

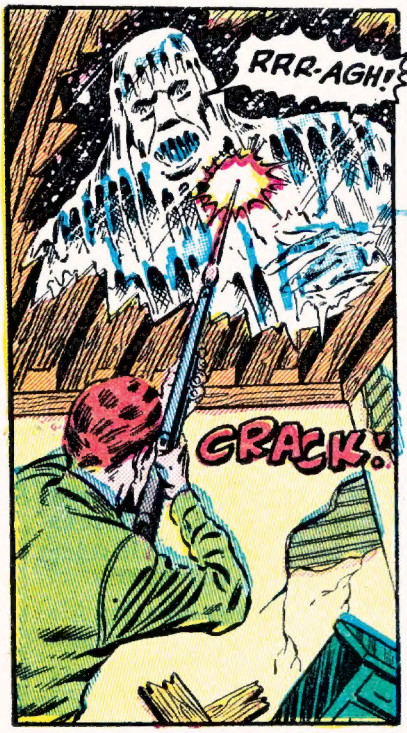

THEN, AFTER HOURS OF HUNTING AMONG THE RUINS -- GIL BENT OVER TO PICK UP A SHINING OBJECT--
ELLA-- WHAT LUCK! IT-- IT'S WHAT I CAME HERE TO FIND-- THE HEART OF THE SNOW MAIDEN!
OH, GIL, DON'T CARRY THIS TOO FAR! THIS IS THE 20TH CENTURY, REMEMBER?
I... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S PROBABLY A VALUABLE DIAMOND SOMEBODY LOST! I'LL HAVE IT CUT INTO AN ENGAGEMENT RING-- FOR YOU!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT, DARLING -- AND IT IS BEAUTIFUL!
TWO WEEKS LATER, ON THE BOAT SAILING HOMEWARD... GIL FOUND HIMSELF TORMENTED BY THE HEART-SHAPED DIAMOND--
IT IS THE HEART OF THE SNOW MAIDEN-- I'M CERTAIN! AND PERHAPS SOON-- I'LL PROVE IT!
SOME MONTHS LATER--
GIL, SINCE WE'VE RETURNED FROM ABROAD, YOU'VE SPENT MOST OF YOUR TIME IN YOUR STUDY! EVEN A SCULPTOR SHOULD HAVE SOME TIME FOR HIS BEST GIRL! ARE YOU-- AVOIDING ME?
ER... I'VE BEEN VERY BUSY, DEAR-- A SPECIAL JOB!-- I'LL CALL YOU TONIGHT!
3
I DON'T DARE ASK HIM WHY HE HASN'T GIVEN ME MY ENGAGEMENT RING-- CUT FROM THAT STRANGE DIAMOND HE FOUND! MAYBE HE DOESN'T LOVE ME ANYMORE-- MAYBE HE'S SOLD IT!
THAT NIGHT, WORRIED ABOUT HER SWEETHEART, ELLA CREPT UP TO HIS STUDIO WINDOW! THERE--
GOOD HEAVENS-- GIL'S GONE MAD! HE'S CARVING A FIGURE FROM ICE-- AND HE'S LEFT THE WINDOW OPEN ON THIS FREEZING NIGHT SO IT WON'T MELT!
AT LAST-- I'VE CARVED A BODY FOR THE SNOW MAIDEN! WITH HER HEART IN PLACE, I'LL GIVE HER-- LIFE!


NEXT, GIL ANXIOUSLY PREPARED TO PLACE THE HUGE GEM WITHIN THE FROZEN FORM--
IF ELLA IS RIGHT ABOUT THAT LEGEND... THEN I'VE CARVED ONLY A LOVELY STATUE THAT WILL SOON MELT AWAY! THIS HEART MUST BE THE ANSWER-- AND I'LL KNOW IN A MOMENT!
NOW TO SEAL IT WITH THIS HOT IRON, AND...
A BREATHLESS MOMENT! THEN-- MIRACULOUSLY-- THE FIGURE CAME ALIVE!
LIFE! I FEEL IT --COURSING THROUGH ME!
I WAS RIGHT! I WAS RIGHT!
BUT-- WHY? WHY HAVE YOU GIVEN ME LIFE AGAIN?
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I FELL IN LOVE WITH A LEGEND! NOW I HAVE GIVEN LIFE TO THAT LEGEND-- AND MY LOVE REMAINS!
I ONCE FELL IN LOVE WITH A MORTAL, AND-- THE RESULT WAS DEATH FOR MANY, INCLUDING MY LOVER!
I'M WILLING TO TAKE MY CHANCES! YOU'RE RIGHTFULLY MINE-- I RECREATED YOU!
I... I'VE LOST HIM-- TO A COLD, INHUMAN CREATURE-- FROM THE UNKNOWN ITSELF!
MEANWHILE, FAR ACROSS THE SEA, THE MOLD WAS POURED FOR STARK TERROR! ONCE AGAIN, THERE WAS OMINOUS ACTIVITY ON THE SLOPES OF MOUNT BLANC--
THAT DULL BEATING FROM AFAR-- IT IS THE HEART OF THE SNOW MAIDEN! SHE LIVES AGAIN-- I MUST GO TO HER!


BY DAY, A SHAPELESS CRAG OF ICE--
HM... DIDN'T NOTICE THAT ICE PILE THERE YESTERDAY! MY EYES MUST BE GOING BAD!
BY NIGHT, A SWIFTLY-MOVING MONSTER THAT RACED ACROSS THE TOP OF THE WORLD, EVER CLOSER TO ITS GOAL--
HUH? I COULD'VE SWORN I SAW AN ICEBERG MOVING ACROSS THE HORIZON-- FAST AS AN EXPRESS TRAIN! BETTER KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT-- THE BOYS'LL THINK I'M LOCO!
INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL
THEN, AT A FARM, A FEW MILES FROM GIL'S STUDIO, THE HORRIFYING MONSTER WAS DISCOVERED!
SARAH-- HELP! CALL THE POLICE! AARGHHH!
MAGICALLY, THE COUNTRYSIDE WAS AROUSED, THE NATION PANICKED--
THIS BRUTE IS FANTASTIC, FOLKS! SOLID ICE-- BUT ALIVE! THE NATIONAL GUARD IS ATTACKING IT WITH EVERYTHING FROM GUNS TO BLOW TORCHES-- BUT NOTHING SEEMS ABLE TO STOP THIS NIGHTMARE CREATURE!
WHOOSH!
HE'S GETTING AWAY-- HEADING FOR THE VILLAGE NEARBY!
IT SOUNDS LIKE-- IT MUST BE-- THE ICE KING OF THE LEGEND! IT MUST BE COMING FOR THE SNOW MAIDEN!
GIL-- HE'S IN DANGER! I'VE GOT TO WARN HIM!
5


MEANWHILE, IN GIL'S STUDIO--
I MUST PROVE TO YOU THAT MY LOVE IS REAL--THAT NOTHING CAN COME BETWEEN US!
NO--YOU MUSTN'T! I FEEL NOTHING FOR YOU--NOTHING!
ANGRY, GIL SPRANG BACK-- JUST AS ELLA BURST IN--
WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN! I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH A LEGEND ALL ALONG! I COULDN'T LOVE YOU-- YOU'RE AS COLD AS THE ICE YOU'RE MADE OF!
GIL-- LISTEN!
ELLA! I KNOW NOW THAT MY LOVE REALLY BELONGS TO YOU! I WAS JUST OBSESSED BY A BOYHOOD DREAM!
OH, GIL, I'M SO GLAD! BUT --THE ICE KING-- HE'S ON HIS WAY HERE-- DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN HIS PATH!
HE KNOWS! HE'LL KILL YOU BOTH TO GET TO ME! NOTHING WILL STOP HIM!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO HANDLE HIM-- WITH THIS!
NO, GIL--THE MEN OF THE VILLAGE HAVE TRIED GUNS! --IT WON'T WORK!
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T SHOOT IN THE RIGHT PLACE! THAT MONSTER'S LIKE THE SNOW MAIDEN-- ONLY HIS HEART'S ALIVE!
BUT IT'S TOO SMALL TO HIT! YOU'LL HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE!
TOO LATE--THE ICE KING HAD ARRIVED!
RRR-AGHHH!
CRASH!
YII-II!
6

WITH DELIBERATE CALM, GIL FIRED AT A TINY SPOT OF GLEAMING CRYSTAL-- A **LIFE-OR-DEATH SHOT!**

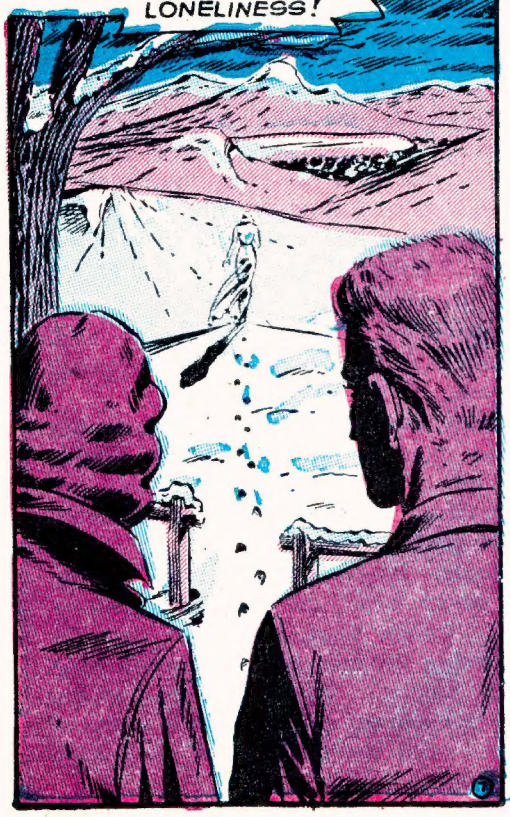


THEN, OUTSIDE--

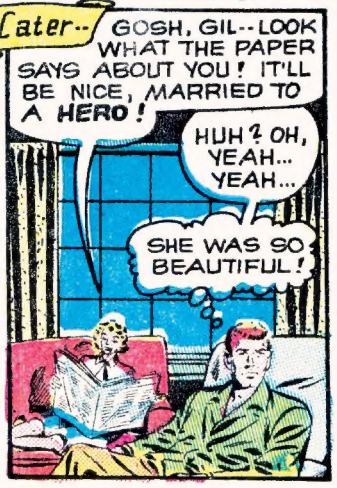
GIL RETURNED, HIS PROBLEM STILL UNSOLVED--

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT-- **HER?**
I KNOW THAT LOVE FOR ME IS IMPOSSIBLE! I WILL GO TO THE MOUNTAIN TOPS, AMID THE ETERNAL SNOWS-- AND THERE DWELL FOREVER!

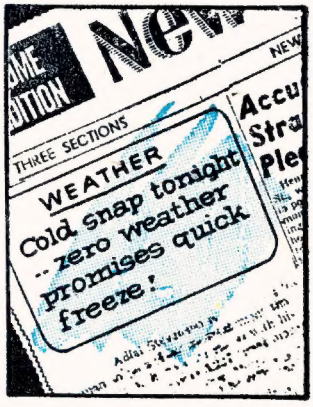
AND SO, A PITIFUL FIGURE, WHITE AND BEAUTIFUL, BEGAN HER AGELESS VIGIL WITH LONELINESS!



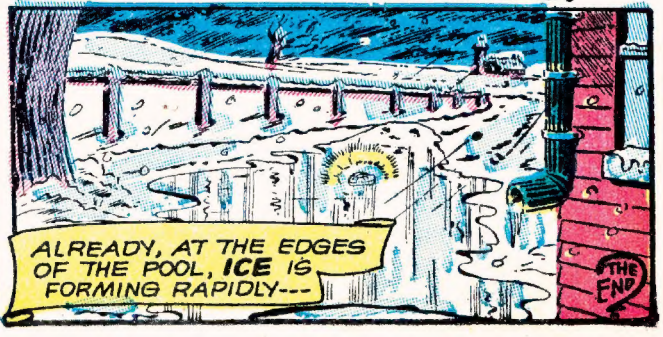
Later--



THEY WOULD HAVE DONE BETTER TO READ THE **WEATHER REPORT--**



WHILE IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE, IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ODDLY-SHAPED POOL OF WATER, GLEAMS THE **STILL-LIVING HEART OF THE ICE KING!**



Ambrose Bierce, the famous writer, once told a tale of terror that is now believed to have been based on a true experience! It took place in one chilling night of madness, a night in...

THE HAUNTED HOTEL

IT WAS IN THE FALL OF 1864! THE CIVIL WAR HAD NOT YET ENDED, BUT ATLANTA HAD BEEN TAKEN! LATE ONE NIGHT, COLONEL PACKARD, JUST ARRIVED FROM WASHINGTON, AND LOOKING FOR LODGING, SAW AN OLD FRAME HOUSE WITH THE SIGN, "BARTLET HOTEL". HE HESITATED BECAUSE OF ITS GLOOMY APPEARANCE, BUT THE FATIGUE OF HIS JOURNEY FORCED HIM TO ENTER...

GOOD EVENING, SIR! DO YOU HAVE A ROOM FOR A TIRED TRAVELER!?

THE NIGHT-CLERK DID NOT ANSWER! HE LIT A CANDLE AND LED THE WAY DOWN THE CREAKING FLOOR OF A LONG HALL, TO A DARK, MUSTY ROOM! THE COLONEL WAS SO EXHAUSTED, HE FELL ASLEEP BEFORE UNDRESSING! BUT IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE HE AWOKE..!

STRANGE! I HAVE THE FEELING I'M NOT ALONE! BUT I DON'T SEE...

AGH HH H H!

B-1827

THEN, IN THE SOFT BLUE LIGHT OF THE RISEN MOON, THE COLONEL SAW...

MEN! MUST BE A DOZEN OF THEM, LYING ON THE FLOOR! I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I MUST BE SEEING THINGS!

TREMBLING FROM THAT EERIE AND UNEXPECTED SIGHT, HE AROSE TO EXAMINE THE FIGURES MORE CLOSELY! THEN...

DEAD!! ALL OF THEM! GOOD LORD! LET ME OUT OF HERE!

HE RUSHED YELLING AND CURSING INTO THE LOBBY! THE CLERK WAS SITTING AT THE DESK STARING BLANKLY...!

YOU CRAZY FOOL! IS THIS SOME GHASTLY JOKE!? WHO... WHAT ARE THOSE... THOSE... IN MY ROOM? ANSWER ME!

BUT THERE WAS NO ANSWER! THE FIGURE OF THE CLERK SLOWLY FADED AWAY, LEAVING THE WIDE-EYED COLONEL STARING DOWN AT HIS SIGNATURE IN THE BOOK HE HAD THOUGHT TO BE THE REGISTER! HE SAW THEN, IT WAS A...

..."RECORD OF THE DEAD"!

THE TERRIFIED COLONEL RUSHED FROM THE PLACE, NOT EVEN RETURNING FOR HIS BAG! HE LATER LEARNED THAT WHERE HE HAD MEANT TO SPEND THE NIGHT WAS NOT A HOTEL! IT HAD BEEN USED FOR A HOSPITAL DURING THE SEIGE, CARING FOR THE DEAD AND DYING! THE ROOM IN WHICH HE HAD SLEPT HAD BEEN THE **ROOM FOR THE DEAD!** HE NEVER RETURNED TO ATLANTA! WOULD YOU?

The End

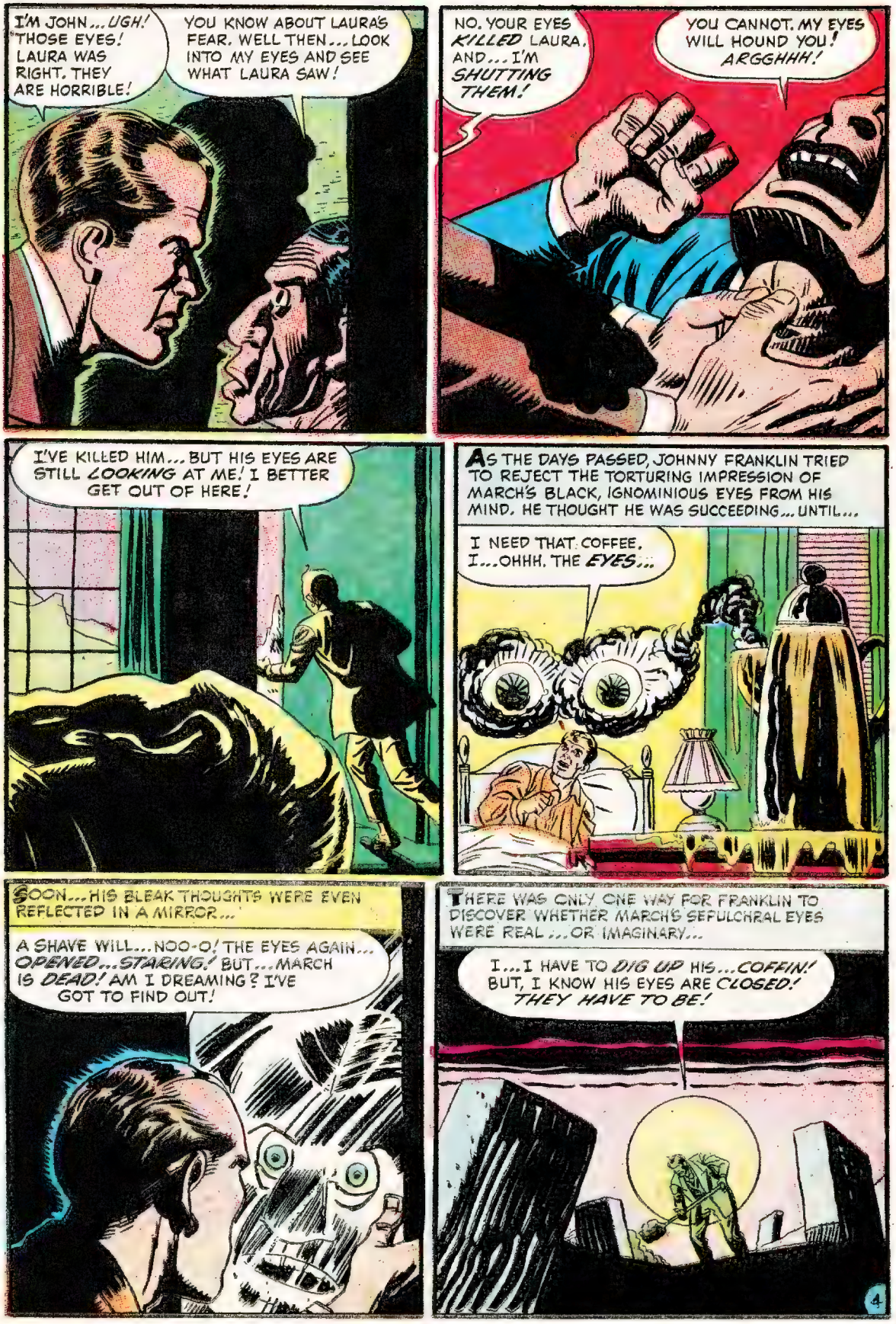
Adventures Into Darkness #13, March 1954. Art: Gene Fawcette. Publisher: Standard.

SEEMINGLY, THEY SAW ALL... CASTING A STRANGE, HORRIBLE SPELL OVER EVERYONE CAUGHT IN THEIR WEB. BUT BEHIND THESE TWIN ORBS GORGED IN ENDLESS BLACK DEPTH WAS HELD THE SINISTER SECRET OF...
THE EYES OF MARCH!
HE'S DEAD... BUT YET HIS EYES KEEP LOOKING AT ME. I... I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT IF THEY'RE CLOSED!
THE QUIET PALL OF SILENCE THAT HAD PERVADED NICHOLAS MARCH'S HOME WAS BROKEN BY LAURA DUNCAN... HER BITTER WORDS SHARP AND CRACKLING...
I LOVE SOMEONE ELSE, IT'S ALL OVER, NICHOLAS!
I DO NOT THINK SO.
WE HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER TOO LONG, MY DEAR LAURA. YOU KNOW WHAT I AM LIKE. DO YOU THINK YOU CAN TREAT ME... NICHOLAS MARCH... LIKE THAT?

Tomb of Terror #8, March 1953. Pencils: Manny Stallman; inks: John Giunta. Publisher: Harvey Comics.

I WILL NEVER STAND FOR THIS! NEVER!
I--I'M SORRY, NICHOLAS. G...GOOD-BYE!
SO LATER, IN A WOODED GLEN BATHED IN A SICKLY YELLOW MOONLIGHT, LAURA ENIGMATICALLY FELT THE CLAWING SENSATION OF FEAR. SHE SOUGHT PROTECTION IN JOHNNY FRANKLIN'S ARMS...
I...I'M AFRAID, JOHNNY. I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I'M SCARED OF HIM...
EASY, DARLING. WHAT CAN HE DO?
I DON'T KNOW. I...I FEEL AS THOUGH THOSE EYES OF HIS ARE LOOKING AT ME RIGHT NOW! OHH, THOSE TWO EYES...
HIS EYES? BUT, DARLING, THAT'S SILLY.
JOHNNY FRANKLIN SCOFFED...BUT THIS WAS NO LAUGHING MATTER TO A MAN WHOSE EYES BLAZED LIKE CAULDRONS OF LIVID BRIMSTONE!
IF I CAN'T HAVE LAURA... NO ONE CAN! SHE MUST DIE. AND I KNOW JUST THE WAY. IT'LL BE IRONIC... SHE WAS ALWAYS AFRAID OF MY EYES...
LATER...
I RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE, NICHOLAS. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANTED YOU TO...
...LOOK INTO MY EYES...
NO! LET ME ALOOOONE! I...I...AM UNDER YOUR POWER. I... WILL...DO... ANYTHING...

I COMMAND YOU TO GO TO THE CLIFF!
I... HEAR... YOU...
THE IMAGE OF NICHOLAS MARCH'S EYES STILL ETCHED IN HER BRAIN, LAURA DUNCAN WALKED OUT INTO THE NIGHT... THE SOLITARY VOICE OF DEATH CALLING TO HER FROM THE YAWNING DEPTHS BENEATH HER NEXT STEP...
GO...TO...THE... CLIFF...
AIEEEEEEEEE
THE CLIFF! THE CLIFF CLIFF..CLIFF.. CLIFF...
AND WHEN THE POLICE FOUND LAURA DUNCAN'S BODY, THEY IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED JOHNNY FRANKLIN.
WE FOUND YOUR NAME IN HER PURSE, MR. FRANKLIN. WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP US.
I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. UNLESS...?
UNLESS ...WHAT?
I REMEMBER NOW. SHE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE EYES! COULD IT...? I'M GOING TO FIND OUT!
FRANKLIN'S MEMORY REELED DIZZILY FROM LAURA'S LAST WORDS...THOSE WORDS THAT WERE GRIPPED BY THE BLOOD-LESS TALONS OF FEAR... AN AWESOME DREAD CAUSED BY THE MAN WITH THE SEEMINGLY OMNISCIENT EYES. SO... .
MARCH! WHERE ARE YOU?
YES. WHO IS IT?
3


I'M JOHN... UGH! THOSE EYES! LAURA WAS RIGHT. THEY ARE HORRIBLE!
YOU KNOW ABOUT LAURA'S FEAR. WELL THEN... LOOK INTO MY EYES AND SEE WHAT LAURA SAW!
NO. YOUR EYES KILLED LAURA. AND... I'M SHUTTING THEM!
YOU CANNOT. MY EYES WILL HOUND YOU! ARGGHHH!
I'VE KILLED HIM... BUT HIS EYES ARE STILL LOOKING AT ME! I BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!
AS THE DAYS PASSED, JOHNNY FRANKLIN TRIED TO REJECT THE TORTURING IMPRESSION OF MARCH'S BLACK, IGNOMINIOUS EYES FROM HIS MIND. HE THOUGHT HE WAS SUCCEEDING... UNTIL...
I NEED THAT COFFEE. I... OHHH. THE EYES...
SOON... HIS BLEAK THOUGHTS WERE EVEN REFLECTED IN A MIRROR...
A SHAVE WILL... NOO-O! THE EYES AGAIN... OPENED... STARING! BUT... MARCH IS DEAD! AM I DREAMING? I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT!
THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY FOR FRANKLIN TO DISCOVER WHETHER MARCH'S SEPULCHRAL EYES WERE REAL... OR IMAGINARY...
I... I HAVE TO DIG UP HIS... COFFIN! BUT, I KNOW HIS EYES ARE CLOSED! THEY HAVE TO BE!

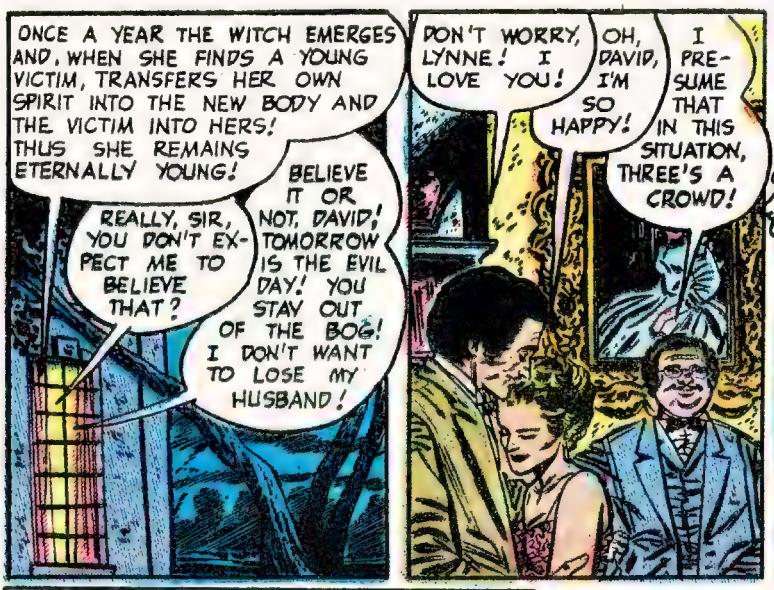
I...I'VE REACHED THE COFFIN, NOW... TO OPEN THE LID!
SLOWLY, CREAKINGLY, FRANKLIN LIFTED THE LID OF THE COFFIN. THEN HE SAW AN ALL-TOO FAMILIAR SIGHT...SOMETHING TERRIBLE... EYES THAT STARED EVEN AFTER SIGHTLESS DEATH...
I...NOOO. THEY'RE OPENED... AND... LOOKING AT ME! NO! NO!
RUN...GOT TO RUN FROM THOSE EYES! I HAVE TO ESCAPE FROM THEIR SIGHT...
BARBED FEAR COILED AROUND FRANKLIN... DISTORTING REALITY INTO GRIM, EERIE APPARITION... BECLOUDING ANYTHING BEFORE HIM...
NO! IT'S... MARCH'S EYES! AIEEE!
THUD!
AIEEE
SKREEEEEEEE
HE RAN RIGHT INTO THE CAR!
IT'S JOHNNY FRANKLIN. HE'S TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING!
MARCH'S EYES... KILLED LAURA... NOW ME. ALL THE TIME... LOOKING AT ME... LOOKING ...STARING...
MARCH LOOK...? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, FRANKLIN. NICHOLAS MARCH WAS BLIND! HE COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING!
BL...? ARGH-H.
THE END.

Deep in the old bog were the dank hiding places of the slimy swamp creatures! Here too, dwelled the evil witch who stole the souls of the unwary, and in an ordeal of horror changing the thinking of...

THE UNBELIEVER

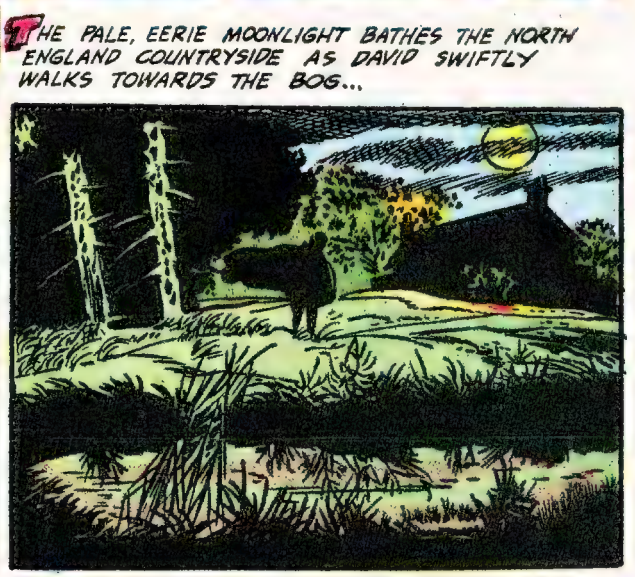
LOOK WELL ON HER! FOR SOON I'LL TAKE OVER HER BODY! I'LL BE YOUNG AND YOUR BELOVED WILL BECOME AN OLD CRONE!
NO! NO! YOU CAN'T DO IT! IT'S HORRIBLE!
THAT OLD BOG DOESN'T LOOK SO TERRIBLE TO ME! IN FACT, I THINK I'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND IN IT TOMORROW!
NO, DAVID, YOU MUSTN'T GO THERE! IT IS A TERRIBLE PLACE!
SHE IS RIGHT MY BOY!
B-1812
DAD!
DR. AMES, SURELY YOU DON'T AGREE WITH THE SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT THE OLD BOG! ALL THAT ROT ABOUT WITCHES AND SPELLS!
DON'T SCOFF, DAVID! THERE ARE THINGS IN THAT PLACE WHICH STAGGER THE IMAGINATION. I'VE SEEN UNBELIEVERS CHANGE THEIR MINDS!

Adventures Into Darkness #13, March 1954. Pencils: Mike Sekowsky; inks: Mike Peppe. Publisher: Standard.

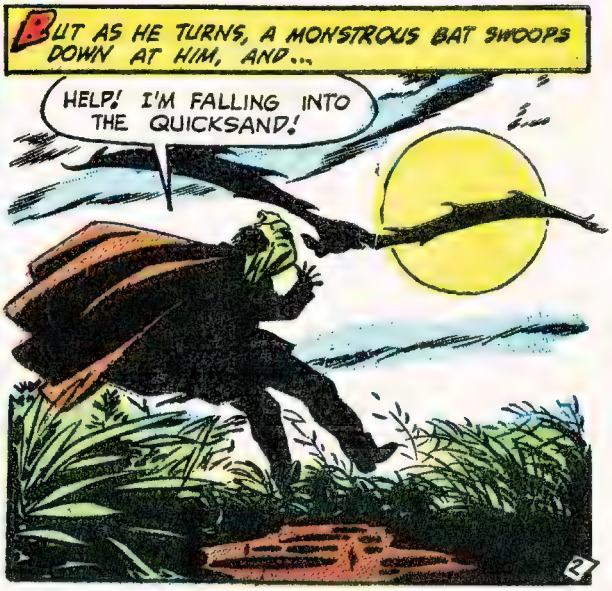

ONCE A YEAR THE WITCH EMERGES AND, WHEN SHE FINDS A YOUNG VICTIM, TRANSFERS HER OWN SPIRIT INTO THE NEW BODY AND THE VICTIM INTO HERS! THUS SHE REMAINS ETERNALLY YOUNG!
REALLY, SIR, YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, DAVID! TOMORROW IS THE EVIL DAY! YOU STAY OUT OF THE BOG! I DON'T WANT TO LOSE MY HUSBAND!
DON'T WORRY, LYNNE! I LOVE YOU!
OH, DAVID, I'M SO HAPPY!
I PRESUME THAT IN THIS SITUATION, THREE'S A CROWD!

LONG AFTER LYNNE WAS ASLEEP, DAVID PACED THE ROOM RESTLESSLY OR STARED OUT OF THE WINDOW AT THE BOG, HYPNOTIZED...
I CAN'T HELP IT...I'M FASCINATED BY THAT PLACE! I MUST FIND OUT WHAT IT'S LIKE... IT SEEMS TO BE CALLING TO ME!

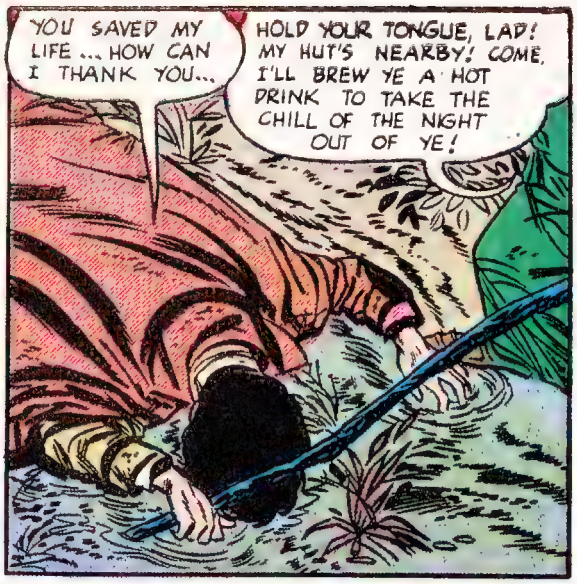
DRESSING, DAVID QUIETLY LEAVES THE ROOM...
IF LYNNE KNEW WHERE I WAS GOING...BUT IT'LL BE A CAPITAL JOKE TO PULL ON HER AND HER DAD!


THE PALE, EERIE MOONLIGHT BATHES THE NORTH ENGLAND COUNTRYSIDE AS DAVID SWIFTLY WALKS TOWARDS THE BOG...

AS HE WANDERS DEEPER INTO THE BOG, AN OVERWHELMING FEAR ASSAILS DAVID...
I MUST'VE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND TO COME OUT HERE! THERE'S QUICKSAND ON EVERY SIDE! I'M GOING BACK! THEY WERE RIGHT, THERE'S SOMETHING EVIL ABOUT THIS PLACE!


BUT AS HE TURNS, A MONSTROUS BAT SWOOPS DOWN AT HIM, AND...
HELP! I'M FALLING INTO THE QUICKSAND!

DAVID STRUGGLES TO FREE HIMSELF FROM THE QUAGMIRE, BUT SLOWLY SINKS DEEPER, UNTIL...


YOU SAVED MY LIFE ... HOW CAN I THANK YOU...
HOLD YOUR TONGUE, LAD! MY HUT'S NEARBY! COME, I'LL BREW YE A HOT DRINK TO TAKE THE CHILL OF THE NIGHT OUT OF YE!

AHA! IT BURNS!
HEE, HEE! YE FOOL! I SUMMONED YOU TO THE BOG! I'VE CHOSEN YOUR WIFE AS MY VICTIM! AND YE'LL DELIVER HER TO ME! THAT DRINK ROBS YE OF YER WILL... YE MUST OBEY MY COMMANDS

HARKEN... YE WILL GO NOW! WANDER ABOUT IN THE BOG! THEY'LL COME FOR YOU AND THEN YE'LL FOLLOW MY ORDERS! DO YE HEAR?
I HEAR AND I WILL OBEY!

LATER...
WE MUST SEPARATE! WE BOTH KNOW THE BOG WELL! BUT BE CAREFUL-- ONE MISSTEP AND THE QUICK-SAND IS WAITING! WE'LL MEET BACK HOME IN AN HOUR!
RIGHT, DAD!

SOON...
LYNNE... SHE TOLD ME YOU'D COME!
DAVID! OH, DARLING, YOU HAD US SO WORRIED!
STRIKE HER DOWN! WHEN SHE IS UNCONSCIOUS, CARRY HER TO MY HUT!
YES...I WILL OBEY!
DAVID, YOU'RE ACTING SO STRANGELY! WHAT'S HAPPENED, DEAR?
WHY DON'T YOU... OOOOOHHHHH!
CRAK!
AT THE HUT, THE WITCH CARRIES OUT A STRANGE RITUAL OVER THE INERT BODY OF THE UNCONSCIOUS GIRL...
HARKEN, O CREATURES OF NIGHT! THE TIME HAS COME TO MAKE THE EXCHANGE! SPIRITS OF DARKNESS, MAKE MY SPIRIT ENTER HER BODY... MAKE THE CHANGE COMPLETE!
AS THE HAG INVOKES THE SPIRITS OF DARKNESS, THE ROOM FILLS WITH A HIDEOUS ASSEMBLAGE OF WRITHING MONSTROSITIES FROM THE FORBIDDEN DEPTHS AND THE NIGHT IS TURNED INTO A GRUESOME CANVAS OF HORROR!
THE RITUAL ENDS...THE MONSTERS VANISH, AND...
BEHOLD! I AM YOUNG AGAIN! MY SPIRIT OCCUPIES HER BODY! THAT SHELL THAT ONCE WAS ME SHALL SLEEP AS WILL HER SPIRIT!
COME, DAVID, FATHER IS WAITING!
YES, I FOLLOW!

SOON...
LYNNE! YOU FOUND HIM! I WAS GETTING WORRIED!
SORRY, DAD... BUT WE'RE HOME NOW!
WHY DON'T YOU TWO GO INTO THE LIVING ROOM? I'LL HAVE SOME TEA READY IN A FEW MINUTES!
DAVE IS ACTING STRANGELY! AND THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT LYNNE... I WONDER...
SOUNDS GOOD! COME ALONG, DAVID!
GREAT SCOTT! SHE CASTS NO REFLECTION! SHE'S NOT LYNNE!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HER? WHERE'S LYNNE? YOU'RE THE WITCH!
YOU'VE DISCOVERED ME? BUT HOW? THE MIRROR!
I'LL MAKE YOU TELL ME WHERE LYNNE IS... I'LL...
YOU'LL NEVER FIND ME IN THE BOG!
WHAT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SHE'S GONE! WE MUST FIND HER! YOU'VE BEEN UNDER A SPELL BUT IT'S WEARING OFF! THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE TO SAVE LYNNE! WHERE IS SHE?
LYNNE... YES... I REMEMBER... THE WITCH...MADE ME HIT HER... THERE WAS...AN EVIL SMELLING HUT...
LATER IN THE OLD BOG...
THE WITCH'S PLACE! THAT DEVIL CHANGED HER BODY FOR LYNNE'S! IF WE CAN DRIVE A STAKE THROUGH HER HEART, WE CAN RELEASE LYNNE'S SPIRIT AND DESTROY THE WITCH!
BUT WE MUST WORK FAST!
THIS IS LIKE SOME MAD NIGHTMARE! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS ALL HAPPENING!
IF WE DON'T DESTROY THE WITCH'S BODY BEFORE DAWN, LYNNES SPIRIT WILL BE LOST FOREVER! FASTER! WE MUST GO FASTER! I KNOW A SHORT CUT!
5

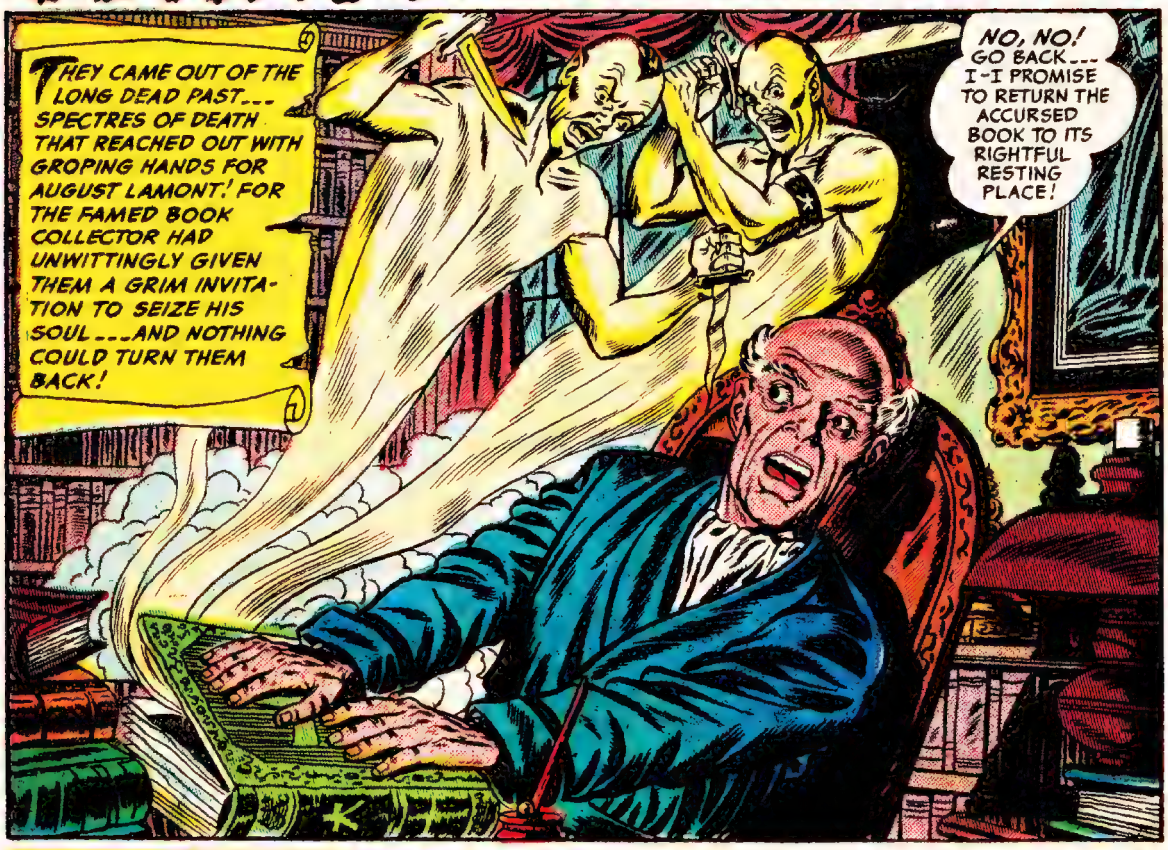
PLUNGING THROUGH THE TREACHEROUS BOG, THE TWO MEN STRUGGLE TOWARDS THE HUT, AS THE FIRST FAINT SIGNS OF DAWN APPEAR...

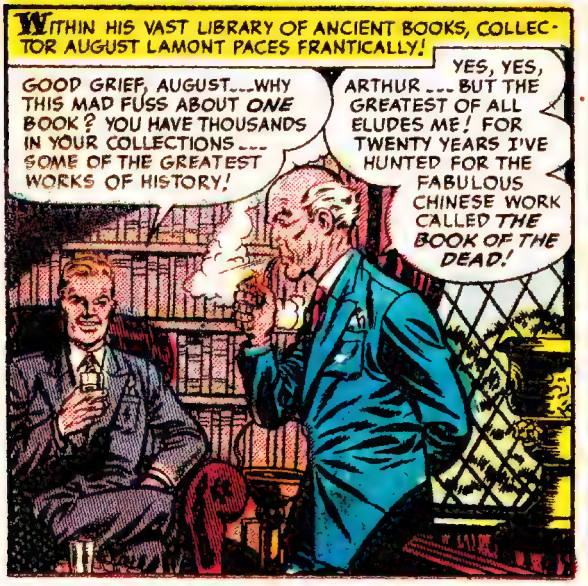
AT LAST THEY SIGHT HER GOAL...

DESPERATELY, THE DOCTOR HURLS THE SHARPENED STAKE AND IT PIERCES THE WITCH'S HEART!

MOMENTS LATER...

TERROR in CHINATOWN

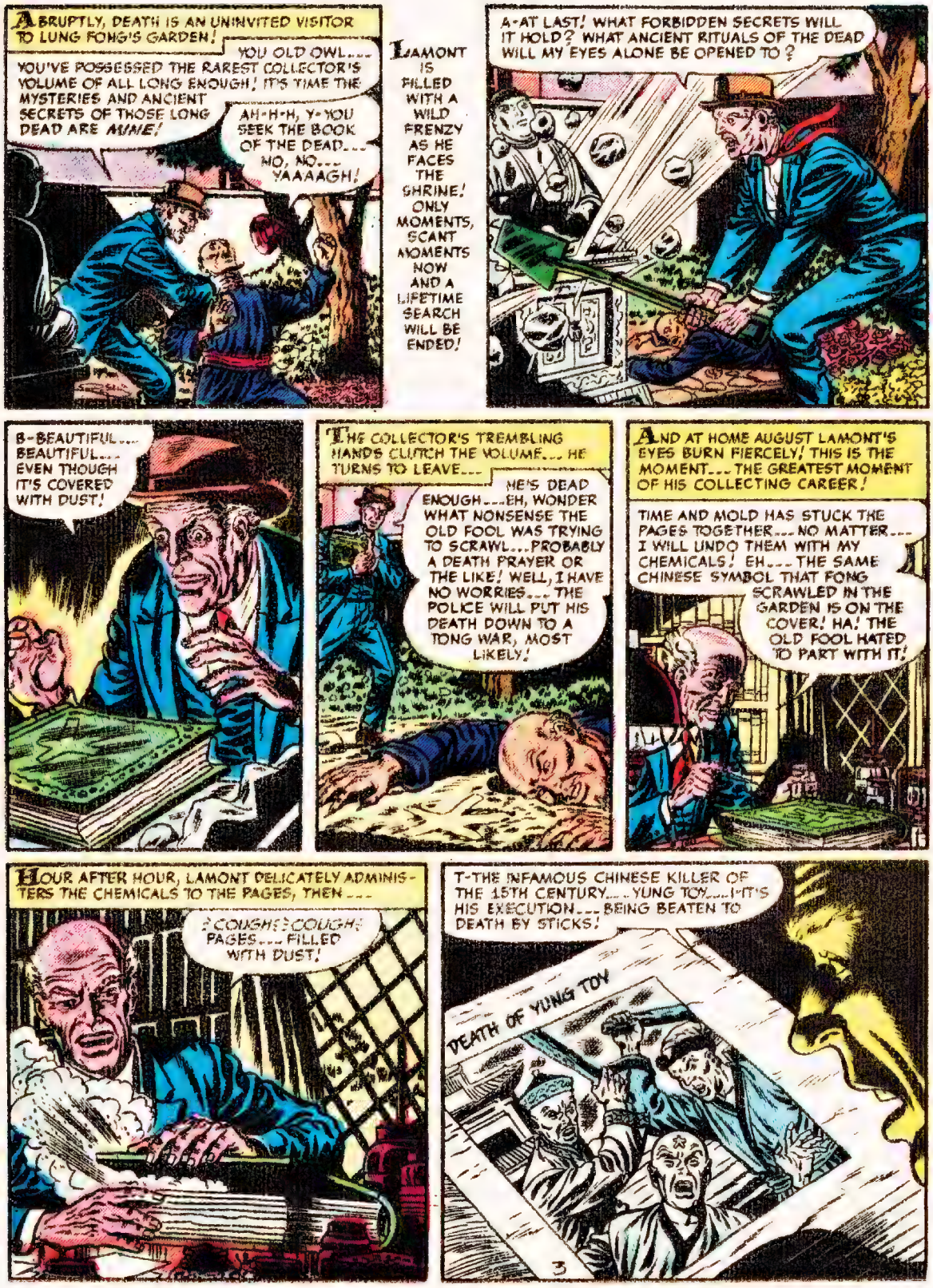

THEY CAME OUT OF THE LONG DEAD PAST... SPECTRES OF DEATH THAT REACHED OUT WITH GROPING HANDS FOR AUGUST LAMONT! FOR THE FAMED BOOK COLLECTOR HAD UNWITTINGLY GIVEN THEM A GRIM INVITATION TO SEIZE HIS SOUL ...AND NOTHING COULD TURN THEM BACK!
NO, NO! GO BACK... I-I PROMISE TO RETURN THE ACCURSED BOOK TO ITS RIGHTFUL RESTING PLACE!


WITHIN HIS VAST LIBRARY OF ANCIENT BOOKS, COLLECTOR AUGUST LAMONT PACES FRANTICALLY!
GOOD GRIEF, AUGUST...WHY THIS MAD FUSS ABOUT ONE BOOK? YOU HAVE THOUSANDS IN YOUR COLLECTIONS... SOME OF THE GREATEST WORKS OF HISTORY!
YES, YES, ARTHUR ... BUT THE GREATEST OF ALL ELUDES ME! FOR TWENTY YEARS I'VE HUNTED FOR THE FABULOUS CHINESE WORK CALLED THE BOOK OF THE DEAD!

I KNOW IT'S HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO'S CHINATOWN... BUT THOSE CRAFTY BOOK DEALERS HIDE IT FROM ME! YES, THEY SEEK TO KEEP THE EYES OF THE WORLD FROM SEEING INSIDE ITS COVERS! BUT...I SHALL GET THAT BOOK!
W-WHY, HE'S OBSESSED WITH GETTING THAT GHASTLY WORK! IT'S... TWISTING HIS MIND...
ER, I'D BETTER RUN ALONG, AUGUST!

Web of Evil #17, August 1954. Pencils: Charles Nicholas. Publisher: Quality Comics.

LATER, LAMONT SCURRIES INTO A BACK ALLEY IN THE HEART OF CHINATOWN!
SIN LEE HAS THE GREATEST COLLECTION OF BOOKS IN ALL CHINATOWN! IT MUST BE HERE--- HIDDEN AMONG HIS MOLDING VOLUMES!
I'LL FIND IT! I'LL TEAR HIS MUSTY STORE TO RIBBONS UNTIL THE BOOK OF THE DEAD IS MINE!
WHERE IS IT? WHERE IS THAT ACCURSED BOOK? I MUST HAVE IT!
Y!!!!!! MISTY LAMONT---WHAT YOU DO HERE?
WHY YOU BREAKEE IN WINDOW, MISTY LAMONT?
YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE, SIN LEE! I'VE COME FOR THE BOOK OF THE DEAD! YOU'VE BEEN HIDING IT FROM ME--- WHERE IS IT? SPEAK UP!
SUDDENLY, LAMONT'S EYES GLEAM LIKE A WILD ANIMAL'S! HIS HAND SNATCHES THE GLOWING FLASH-LIGHT AND---
TELL ME! TELL ME!
OH-H-H-H-H!
Y-YOU SEEK MUCH--- HORROR---SIN LEE--- TRY TO SAVE YOU--- NOW I TELL---OLD LUNG FONG HAVE BOOK---HE KEEP IN---IN GARDEN SHRINE!---AH-H-H-H!
DEAD! IT DOESN'T MATTER! I KNOW NOW WHERE THE BOOK IS! OLD LUNG FONG'S GARDEN---IN A SHRINE, HE SAID! I KNEW IT! I KNEW THE BOOK WAS IN THE CITY! HA, HA!
LATER, THE COLLECTOR WHO HAS MADE MURDER HIS CALLING CARD REACHES LUNG FONG'S HOME!
LUNG FONG--- THE WISEST, MOST FAMOUS RESIDENT OF CHINATOWN---WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF HIM BEFORE! AH, HE KEEPS THE BOOK LOCKED IN THAT SHRINE---HE'LL NEVER RELEASE IT TO ME FOR ANY PRICE! NO, ONE MORE MURDER WON'T MATTER---IT IS THE ONLY WAY!

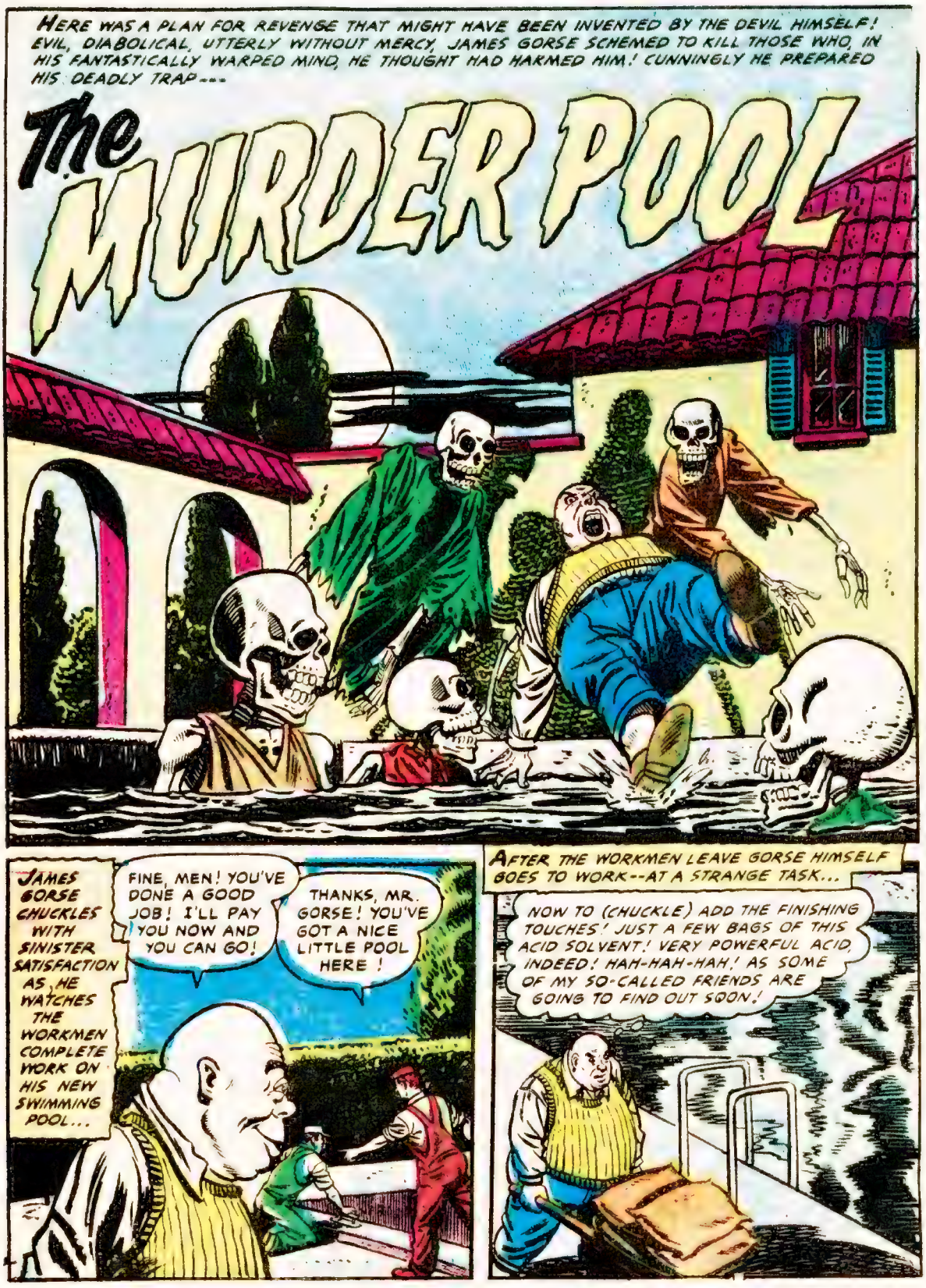

ABRUPTLY, DEATH IS AN UNINVITED VISITOR TO LUNG FONG'S GARDEN!
YOU OLD OWL... YOU'VE POSSESSED THE RAREST COLLECTOR'S VOLUME OF ALL LONG ENOUGH! IT'S TIME THE MYSTERIES AND ANCIENT SECRETS OF THOSE LONG DEAD ARE MINE!
AH-H-H, Y-YOU SEEK THE BOOK OF THE DEAD... NO, NO... YAAAAGH!
LAMONT IS FILLED WITH A WILD FRENZY AS HE FACES THE SHRINE! ONLY MOMENTS, SCANT MOMENTS NOW AND A LIFETIME SEARCH WILL BE ENDED!
A-AT LAST! WHAT FORBIDDEN SECRETS WILL IT HOLD? WHAT ANCIENT RITUALS OF THE DEAD WILL MY EYES ALONE BE OPENED TO?
B-BEAUTIFUL... BEAUTIFUL... EVEN THOUGH IT'S COVERED WITH DUST!
THE COLLECTOR'S TREMBLING HANDS CLUTCH THE VOLUME... HE TURNS TO LEAVE...
HE'S DEAD ENOUGH...EH, WONDER WHAT NONSENSE THE OLD FOOL WAS TRYING TO SCRAWL...PROBABLY A DEATH PRAYER OR THE LIKE! WELL, I HAVE NO WORRIES... THE POLICE WILL PUT HIS DEATH DOWN TO A TONG WAR, MOST LIKELY!
AND AT HOME AUGUST LAMONT'S EYES BURN FIERCELY! THIS IS THE MOMENT... THE GREATEST MOMENT OF HIS COLLECTING CAREER!
TIME AND MOLD HAS STUCK THE PAGES TOGETHER... NO MATTER... I WILL UNDO THEM WITH MY CHEMICALS! EH... THE SAME CHINESE SYMBOL THAT FONG SCRAWLED IN THE GARDEN IS ON THE COVER! HA! THE OLD FOOL HATED TO PART WITH IT!
HOUR AFTER HOUR, LAMONT DELICATELY ADMINISTERS THE CHEMICALS TO THE PAGES, THEN...
?COUGH?COUGH! PAGES... FILLED WITH DUST!
T-THE INFAMOUS CHINESE KILLER OF THE 15TH CENTURY... YUNG TOY... I-IT'S HIS EXECUTION... BEING BEATEN TO DEATH BY STICKS!
DEATH OF YUNG TOY
3

SUDDENLY, LAMONT'S SENSES REEL! ICY FINGERS OF FEAR CLUTCH AT HIS HEART AND---
WHA---T-THE EXECUTIONERS!
GOOD HEAVENS! W-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME! I-I'M DRESSED LIKE YUNG TOY! THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME!
THE SENTENCE OF DEATH HAS BEEN PASSED UPON YOU YUNG TOY!
NO, NO! IT'S ALL A HORRIBLE MISTAKE! I'M NOT YUNG TOY!
DIE! DIE!
YAAAAAA
FINALLY, THE CLOUD OF PAIN LIFTS...
A-A VISION--- IT WAS ALL A VISION! G-GREAT GLORY--- WHAT A GHASTLY SENSATION!
T-THE EXCITEMENT---IT MUST HAVE BEEN A REACTION CAUSED BY MY ANXIETY! YES---YES, I'LL REST A WHILE BEFORE I OPEN THE NEXT PAGE!
AT MIDNIGHT, AND ONCE AGAIN CALM AND COMPOSED, LAMONT RETURNS TO WORK ON THE BOOK OF THE DEAD!
PHEW! BLAST THAT DUST!---AH! THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE CHINESE EMPEROR FAN HO!

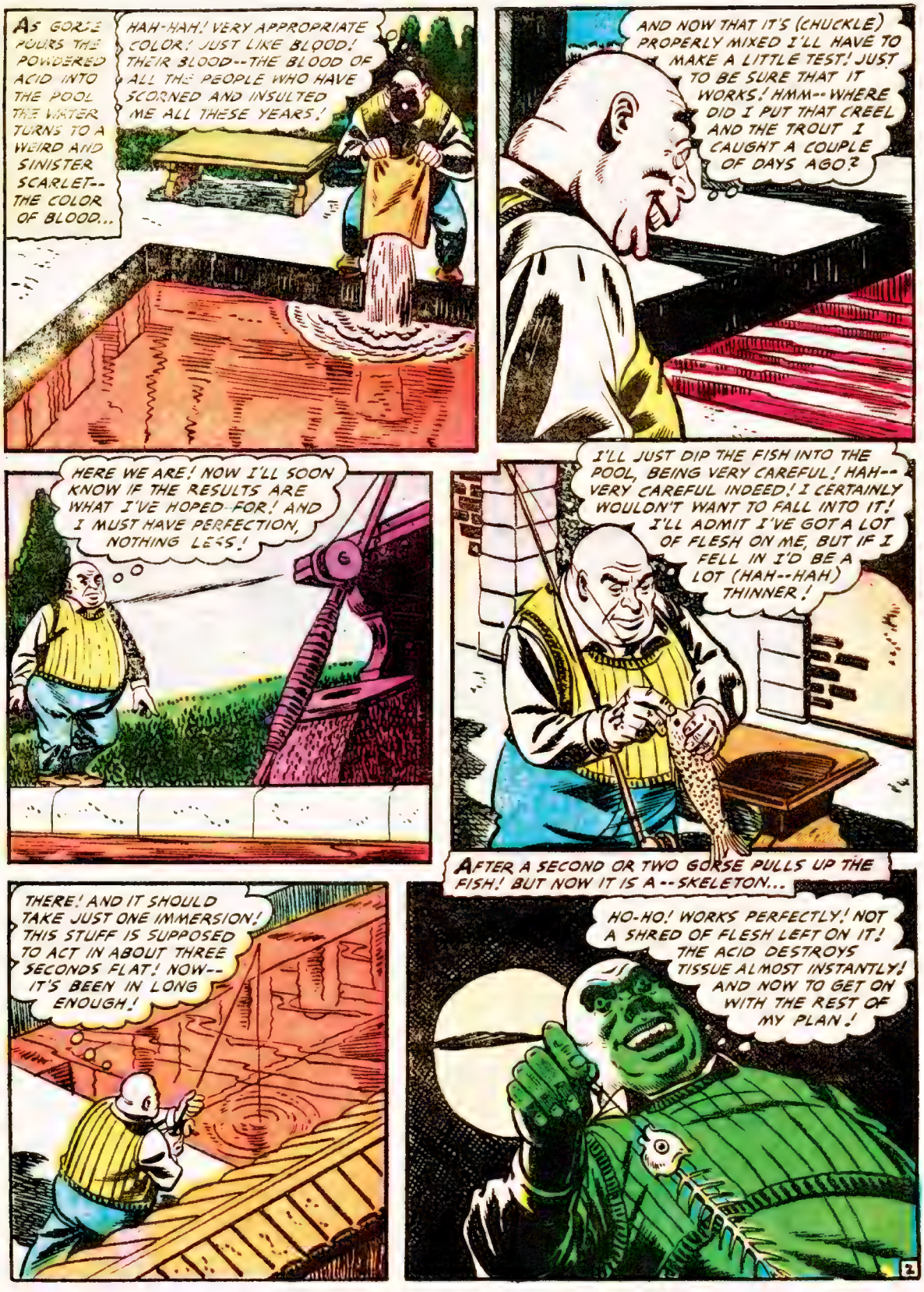
YES, YES, HE ESCAPED HIS WOULD-BE EXECUTIONERS AND... AND FLED... THE COUNTRY!
SEIZE HIM! SEIZE THE DOG!
ESCAPE...I MUST ESCAPE THE SWINE! GREAT MERCY! T-THEY THINK I'M FAN HO!
MERCY! MERCY! DON'T KILL ME!
ON AND ON AMID A NIGHTMARE OF SUDDEN DEATH LAMONT DASHES! DEATH AND THE DEVIL ARE AT HIS HEELS!
LET ME GO! PLEASE... LET ME GO!
THEN...
YIIIII! DON'T KILL ME!
MR. LAMONT, RELAX... WE'RE NOT GOING TO HARM YOU!
POOR DEVIL'S OUT OF HIS HEAD! WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?
THANK YOU, OFFICERS! I-I WAS HAVING A NIGHTMARE... YES, THAT WAS IT, A NIGHTMARE! I'M...ALL RIGHT NOW!
WELL, OKAY, MR. LAMONT, IF YOU SAY YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! BETTER SEE A DOCTOR ABOUT THOSE NIGHTMARES THOUGH... THEY'RE PRETTY ROUGH ONES!
I SEE IT NOW... THEY WERE RIGHT! THE BOOK IS A THING OF EVIL! I MUST DESTROY IT... RID MYSELF OF ITS HIDEOUS CURSE!

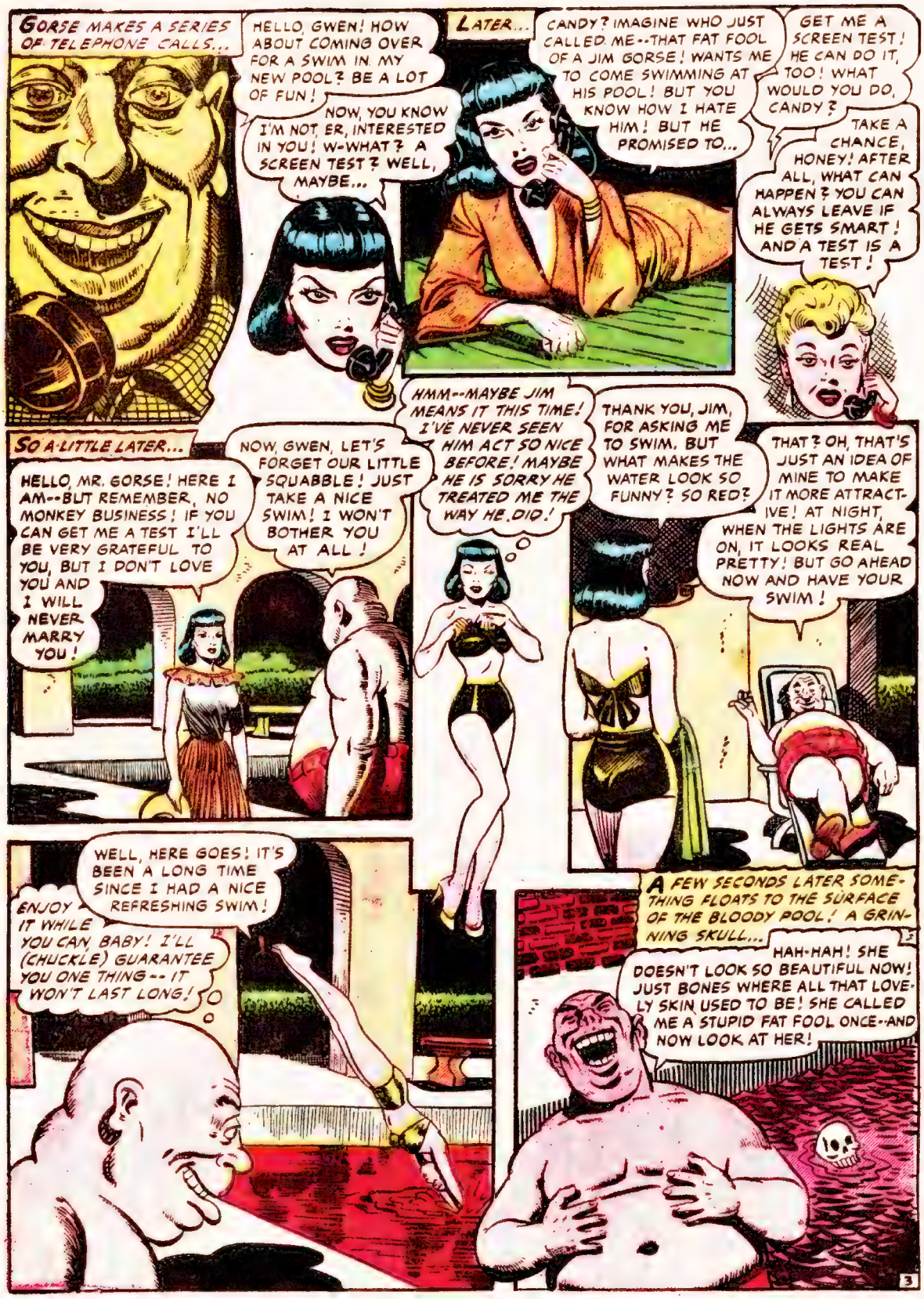
INTO THE FIRE WITH YOU, BOOK OF THE DEAD! I'VE HAD ALL THE ACCURSED DATA FROM YOU I WANT!
YOU GROTESQUE THING OF HORROR... I'LL BURN YOUR EVIL AWAY!
SUDDENLY, THE HEAT FROM THE FLAMES FREES THE BOOK'S LAST PAGE AND...
WHA...? THE HEAT... IT RELEASED THE BACK PAGE... YIIIII! IT'S A PICTURE OF... LUNG FONG!
G-GOOD GRIEF! I-IT'S ME... STRANGLING LUNG FONG... B-BUT LUNG FONG'S FACE IS THAT OF... MY OWN!
ONCE AGAIN, LAMONT'S SENSES SPIN... THE ROOM REVOLVES BEFORE HIS EYES... CHANGES SHAPE AND FORM...
NO, NO... DON'T DO IT TO ME AGAIN! Y-YOU CAN'T... YOU CAN'T... NOT THIS TIME! I CAN'T BE TWO MEN AT ONCE!
BUT LAMONT'S PLEAS GO UNHEEDED, FINALLY...
I-I'M COMING TO STRANGLE... MYSELF! I-IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! GO AWAY! GO AWAY, LAMONT! CAN'T YOU SEE IT IS YOUR VERY SELF YOU THREATEN!
OLD FOOL WITH THE BOOK!
YES, YES, IT IS POSSIBLE! BEFORE... I COULDN'T BE KILLED BECAUSE THE KILLERS WERE DEAD... DEAD LONG CENTURIES AGO... BUT I, AUGUST LAMONT, DO LIVE NOW! I CAN COMMIT MURDER!
6

T-TAKE THE BOOK, LAMONT! Y-YOU FOOL! YOU HAVE IT ALREADY!
NO, FONG.... YOU WOULD NEVER RELEASE THE BOOK TO ME! I MUST KILL YOU FOR IT!
TIGHTER, TIGHTER THE KILLER'S HANDS CLOSE UPON HIS VICTIM'S THROAT!
DON'T YOU SEE, FONG.... I MUST HAVE THE BOOK OF THE DEAD!
NO.... IT IS.... EVIL....
ARRRGGH
THEN, AS THE LAST TRICKLE OF LIFE FLOWS FROM THE VICTIM'S BODY....
WHAT FORBIDDEN SECRETS WILL IT HOLD? WHAT ANCIENT RITUALS OF THE DEAD WILL MY EYES ALONE BE OPENED TO?
AND A MOMENT LATER, OUTSIDE THE HOME OF COLLECTOR, AUGUST LAMONT.
SCREAMING... MUCH SCREAMING LIKE MAN BE CHOKED TO DEATH!
IT'S THAT CRAZY LAMONT GUY! WE HAD TROUBLE WITH HIM BEFORE!
G-GREAT GOSH! HE'S STRANGLED HIMSELF!
S-SUFFERING HANNAH!
DEAD... A-AND LOOKIT THIS ON HIS FOREHEAD!
SNIFF! SNIFF! HOLY COW, JOE... THIS BOOK IS LOADED WITH SWEET SMELLING OPIUM ... OR SOME CHINESE DRUG! HE MUST HAVE SNIFFED IT AND GONE CRAZY!
NEVER SEEN ANY CHINESE SYMBOL LIKE THAT BEFORE!
IT IS AN OLD SYMBOL USED BY MY ANCESTORS! A CURSE USED AGAINST THOSE WHO SINNED! IT REPRESENTS... DEATH AND EVIL!

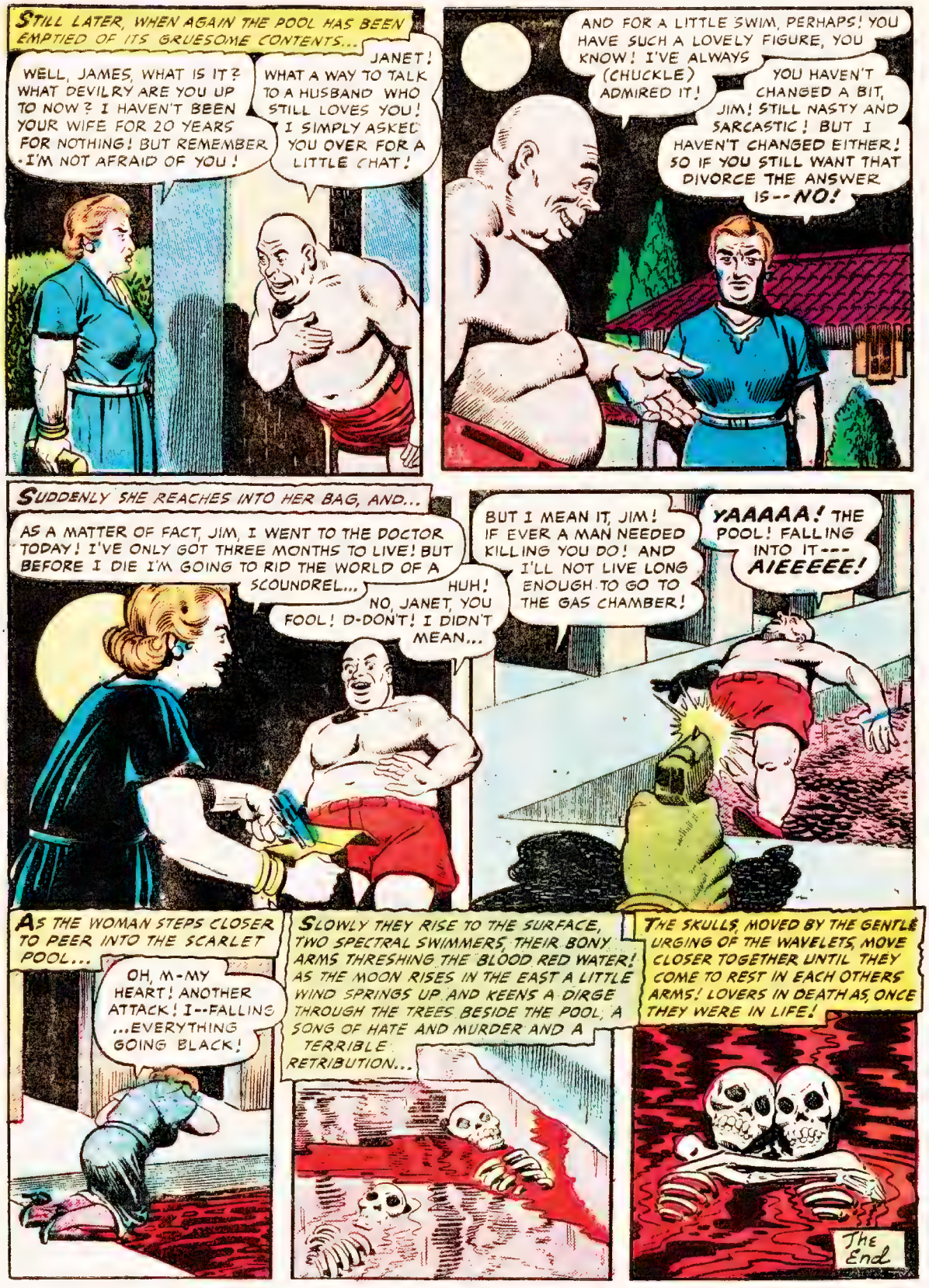

HERE WAS A PLAN FOR REVENGE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVENTED BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF! EVIL, DIABOLICAL, UTTERLY WITHOUT MERCY, JAMES GORSE SCHEMED TO KILL THOSE WHO, IN HIS FANTASTICALLY WARPED MIND, HE THOUGHT HAD HARMED HIM! CUNNINGLY HE PREPARED HIS DEADLY TRAP---
The MURDER POOL
JAMES GORSE CHUCKLES WITH SINISTER SATISFACTION AS HE WATCHES THE WORKMEN COMPLETE WORK ON HIS NEW SWIMMING POOL...
FINE, MEN! YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB! I'LL PAY YOU NOW AND YOU CAN GO!
THANKS, MR. GORSE! YOU'VE GOT A NICE LITTLE POOL HERE!
AFTER THE WORKMEN LEAVE GORSE HIMSELF GOES TO WORK--AT A STRANGE TASK...
NOW TO (CHUCKLE) ADD THE FINISHING TOUCHES! JUST A FEW BAGS OF THIS ACID SOLVENT! VERY POWERFUL ACID, INDEED! HAH-HAH-HAH! AS SOME OF MY SO-CALLED FRIENDS ARE GOING TO FIND OUT SOON!

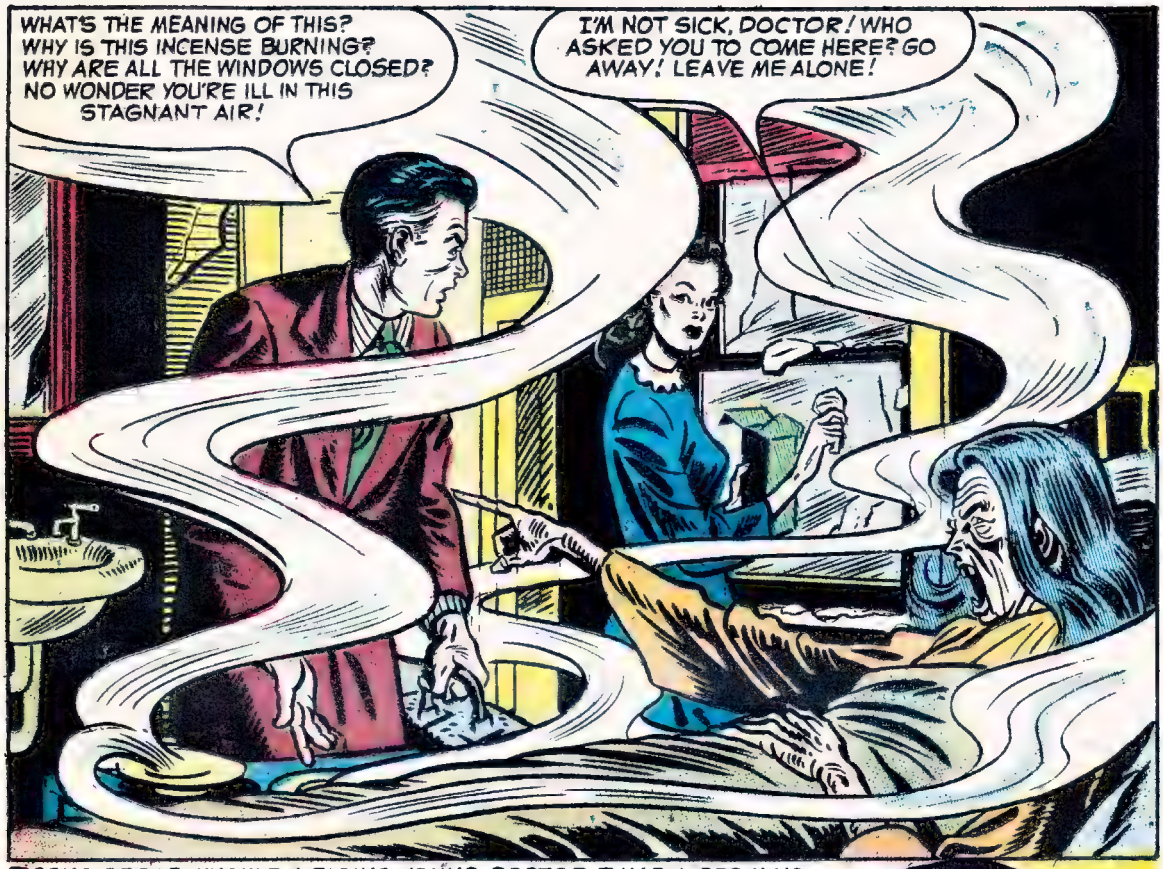
Strange Fantasy #13, August – September 1954. Art; the Iger Shop. Publisher: Farrell.


AS GORSE POURS THE POWDERED ACID INTO THE POOL THE WATER TURNS TO A WEIRD AND SINISTER SCARLET--THE COLOR OF BLOOD..
HAH-HAH! VERY APPROPRIATE COLOR! JUST LIKE BLOOD! THEIR BLOOD--THE BLOOD OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SCORNED AND INSULTED ME ALL THESE YEARS!
AND NOW THAT IT'S (CHUCKLE) PROPERLY MIXED I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A LITTLE TEST! JUST TO BE SURE THAT IT WORKS! HMM--WHERE DID I PUT THAT CREEL AND THE TROUT I CAUGHT A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO?
HERE WE ARE! NOW I'LL SOON KNOW IF THE RESULTS ARE WHAT I'VE HOPED FOR! AND I MUST HAVE PERFECTION, NOTHING LESS!
I'LL JUST DIP THE FISH INTO THE POOL, BEING VERY CAREFUL! HAH--VERY CAREFUL INDEED! I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO FALL INTO IT! I'LL ADMIT I'VE GOT A LOT OF FLESH ON ME, BUT IF I FELL IN I'D BE A LOT (HAH--HAH) THINNER!
THERE! AND IT SHOULD TAKE JUST ONE IMMERSION! THIS STUFF IS SUPPOSED TO ACT IN ABOUT THREE SECONDS FLAT! NOW--IT'S BEEN IN LONG ENOUGH!
AFTER A SECOND OR TWO GORSE PULLS UP THE FISH! BUT NOW IT IS A--SKELETON...
HO-HO! WORKS PERFECTLY! NOT A SHRED OF FLESH LEFT ON IT! THE ACID DESTROYS TISSUE ALMOST INSTANTLY! AND NOW TO GET ON WITH THE REST OF MY PLAN!
2


GORSE MAKES A SERIES OF TELEPHONE CALLS...
HELLO, GWEN! HOW ABOUT COMING OVER FOR A SWIM IN MY NEW POOL? BE A LOT OF FUN!
NOW, YOU KNOW I'M NOT, ER, INTERESTED IN YOU! W-WHAT? A SCREEN TEST? WELL, MAYBE...
LATER...
CANDY? IMAGINE WHO JUST CALLED ME--THAT FAT FOOL OF A JIM GORSE! WANTS ME TO COME SWIMMING AT HIS POOL! BUT YOU KNOW HOW I HATE HIM! BUT HE PROMISED TO...
GET ME A SCREEN TEST! HE CAN DO IT, TOO! WHAT WOULD YOU DO, CANDY?
TAKE A CHANCE, HONEY! AFTER ALL, WHAT CAN HAPPEN? YOU CAN ALWAYS LEAVE IF HE GETS SMART! AND A TEST IS A TEST!
SO A LITTLE LATER...
HELLO, MR. GORSE! HERE I AM--BUT REMEMBER, NO MONKEY BUSINESS! IF YOU CAN GET ME A TEST I'LL BE VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU, BUT I DON'T LOVE YOU AND I WILL NEVER MARRY YOU!
NOW, GWEN, LET'S FORGET OUR LITTLE SQUABBLE! JUST TAKE A NICE SWIM! I WON'T BOTHER YOU AT ALL!
HMM--MAYBE JIM MEANS IT THIS TIME! I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM ACT SO NICE BEFORE! MAYBE HE IS SORRY HE TREATED ME THE WAY HE DID!
THANK YOU, JIM, FOR ASKING ME TO SWIM. BUT WHAT MAKES THE WATER LOOK SO FUNNY? SO RED?
THAT? OH, THAT'S JUST AN IDEA OF MINE TO MAKE IT MORE ATTRACTIVE! AT NIGHT, WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE ON, IT LOOKS REAL PRETTY! BUT GO AHEAD NOW AND HAVE YOUR SWIM!
WELL, HERE GOES! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD A NICE REFRESHING SWIM!
ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN, BABY! I'LL (CHUCKLE) GUARANTEE YOU ONE THING -- IT WON'T LAST LONG!
A FEW SECONDS LATER SOMETHING FLOATS TO THE SURFACE OF THE BLOODY POOL! A GRINNING SKULL...
HAH-HAH! SHE DOESN'T LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL NOW! JUST BONES WHERE ALL THAT LOVELY SKIN USED TO BE! SHE CALLED ME A STUPID FAT FOOL ONCE--AND NOW LOOK AT HER!
3

GORSE HAS PLANNED HIS PHONE CALLS CAREFULLY! AS DARKNESS FALLS ANOTHER GUEST MAKES AN APPEARANCE...
WELL, GORSE, WHAT DO YOU WANT? WE AREN'T EXACTLY FRIENDS, YOU KNOW!
NOW, FRED! LET BYGONES BE BYGONES! I FORGIVE YOU FOR THAT TIME YOU CHEATED ME ON THE STOCK MARKET!
SO I WANT TO BE FRIENDS! WE'LL FORGET THE PAST! AND AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE WHY NOT TAKE A SWIM IN MY NEW POOL? IT'S SO HOT TONIGHT!
IT IS HOT, AT THAT! AND I COULD USE A DIP! BUT DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO BE YOUR FRIEND, GORSE!
YOU CHEATED ME, REMEMBER! NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND! IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO TRY AND TWIST IT TO SUIT YOU! SO I'LL JUST HAVE MY SWIM AND SAY GOODBYE!
OKAY, FRED, OKAY! IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL, GO AHEAD AND ENJOY YOURSELF!
ALL RIGHT, FATSO! AGREED! I'LL USE YOUR CRUMMY SWIMMING POOL THIS ONCE! THAT'S THE ONLY THING I'LL EVER GET OUT OF YOU!
DON'T YOU WISH YOU COULD DIVE LIKE THIS, GORSE! THEN MAYBE SOME OF THE PRETTY GIRLS WOULD GIVE YOU A BREAK!
GO AHEAD, ROMEO! SHOW ME YOUR PRETTY MUSCLES! SHOW ME HOW GOOD YOU ARE!
AGAIN A GRISLY SKULL FLOATS TO THE SURFACE OF THE SINISTER POOL...
OH, HO-HO-HO! LOOK AT HIM NOW! HEE-HEE-HEE! JUST LOOK AT HIS BEAUTIFUL SMOOTH MUSCLES NOW! WONDER WHAT THE (CHUCKLE) GIRLS WOULD THINK OF HIM!

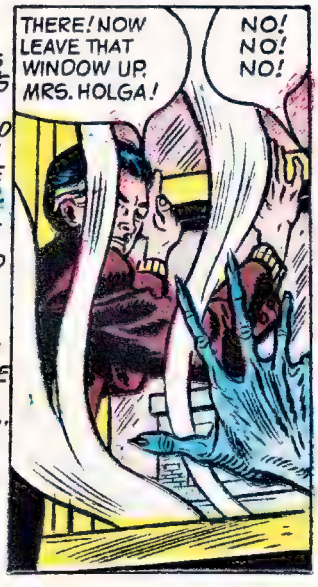

STILL LATER, WHEN AGAIN THE POOL HAS BEEN EMPTIED OF ITS GRUESOME CONTENTS...
WELL, JAMES, WHAT IS IT? WHAT DEVILRY ARE YOU UP TO NOW? I HAVEN'T BEEN YOUR WIFE FOR 20 YEARS FOR NOTHING! BUT REMEMBER -I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!
JANET! WHAT A WAY TO TALK TO A HUSBAND WHO STILL LOVES YOU! I SIMPLY ASKED YOU OVER FOR A LITTLE CHAT!
AND FOR A LITTLE SWIM, PERHAPS! YOU HAVE SUCH A LOVELY FIGURE, YOU KNOW! I'VE ALWAYS (CHUCKLE) ADMIRED IT!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, JIM! STILL NASTY AND SARCASTIC! BUT I HAVEN'T CHANGED EITHER! SO IF YOU STILL WANT THAT DIVORCE THE ANSWER IS--NO!
SUDDENLY SHE REACHES INTO HER BAG, AND...
AS A MATTER OF FACT, JIM, I WENT TO THE DOCTOR TODAY! I'VE ONLY GOT THREE MONTHS TO LIVE! BUT BEFORE I DIE I'M GOING TO RID THE WORLD OF A SCOUNDREL...
HUH! NO, JANET, YOU FOOL! D-DON'T! I DIDN'T MEAN...
BUT I MEAN IT, JIM! IF EVER A MAN NEEDED KILLING YOU DO! AND I'LL NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GO TO THE GAS CHAMBER!
YAAAAA! THE POOL! FALLING INTO IT--- AIEEEEE!
AS THE WOMAN STEPS CLOSER TO PEER INTO THE SCARLET POOL...
OH, M-MY HEART! ANOTHER ATTACK! I--FALLING ...EVERYTHING GOING BLACK!
SLOWLY THEY RISE TO THE SURFACE, TWO SPECTRAL SWIMMERS, THEIR BONY ARMS THRESHING THE BLOOD RED WATER! AS THE MOON RISES IN THE EAST A LITTLE WIND SPRINGS UP AND KEENS A DIRGE THROUGH THE TREES BESIDE THE POOL, A SONG OF HATE AND MURDER AND A TERRIBLE RETRIBUTION...
THE SKULLS, MOVED BY THE GENTLE URGING OF THE WAVELETS, MOVE CLOSER TOGETHER UNTIL THEY COME TO REST IN EACH OTHERS ARMS! LOVERS IN DEATH AS ONCE THEY WERE IN LIFE!
The End


WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? WHY IS THIS INCENSE BURNING? WHY ARE ALL THE WINDOWS CLOSED? NO WONDER YOU'RE ILL IN THIS STAGNANT AIR!
I'M NOT SICK, DOCTOR! WHO ASKED YOU TO COME HERE? GO AWAY! LEAVE ME ALONE!

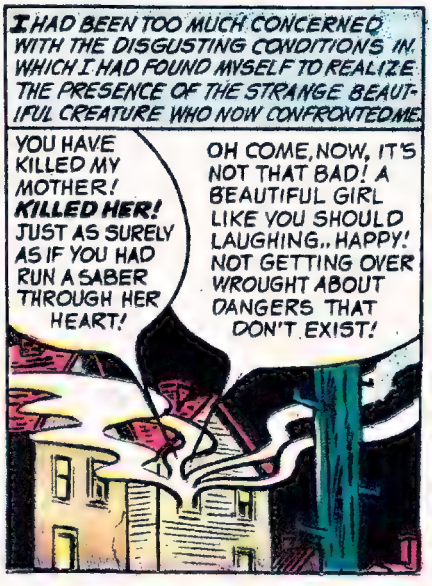
I CONSIDERED MYSELF A RISING YOUNG DOCTOR. I HAD A GROWING PRACTICE AND THELMA OSGOOD, WHO WAS MY FIANCEE. YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT ALL COULD CHANGE SO COMPLETELY, SIMPLY BECAUSE OF A HARMLESS THING LIKE...

NIGHT AIR

I WAS ONE OF THE CITY'S PHYSICIANS WHO HAD VOLUNTEERED SOME OF MY TIME ON THE EAST SIDE. THE SOCIAL WORKER HAD ASKED FOR MEDICAL OPINION. MY ADVICE WAS FOR THE WOMAN'S OWN GOOD...

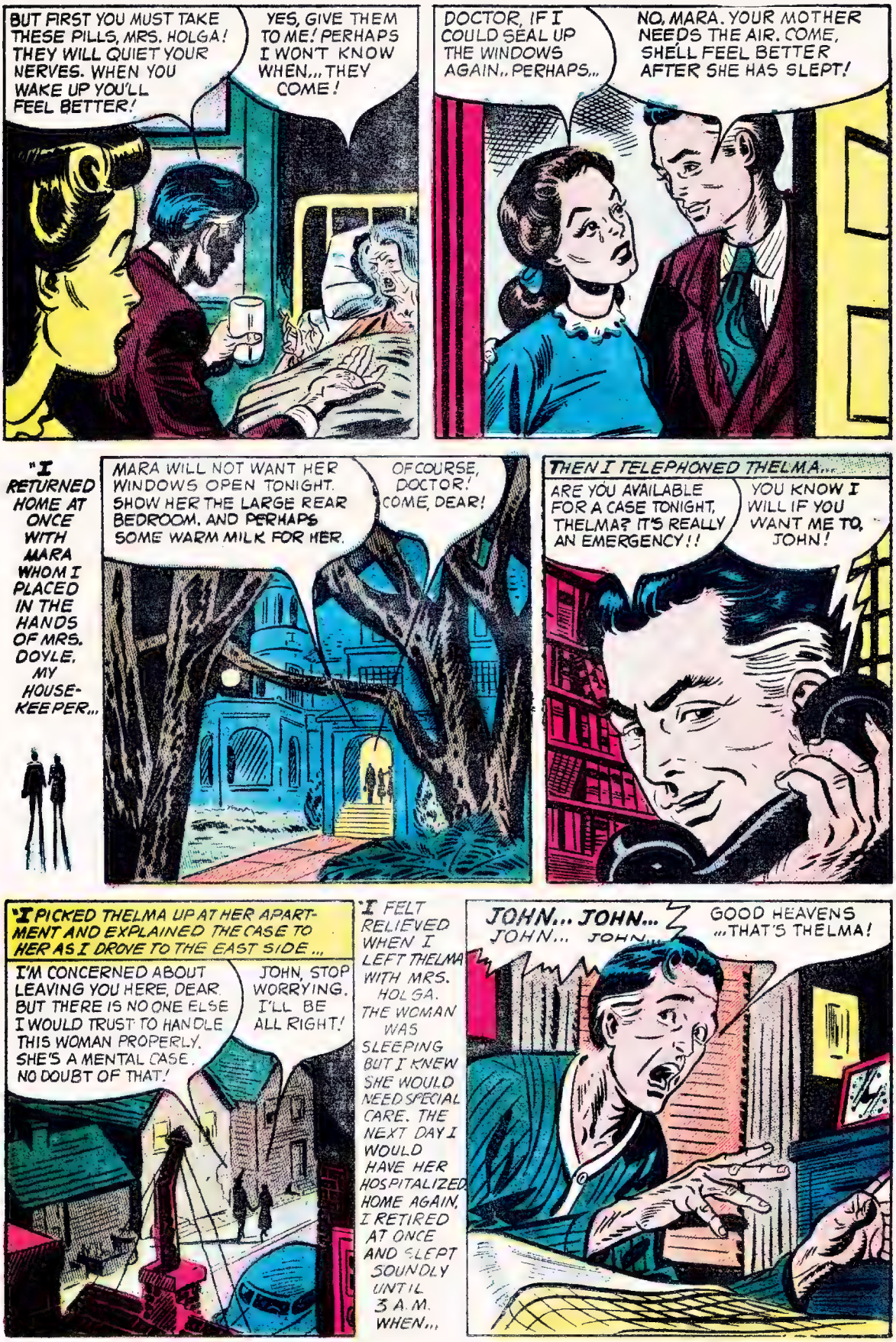


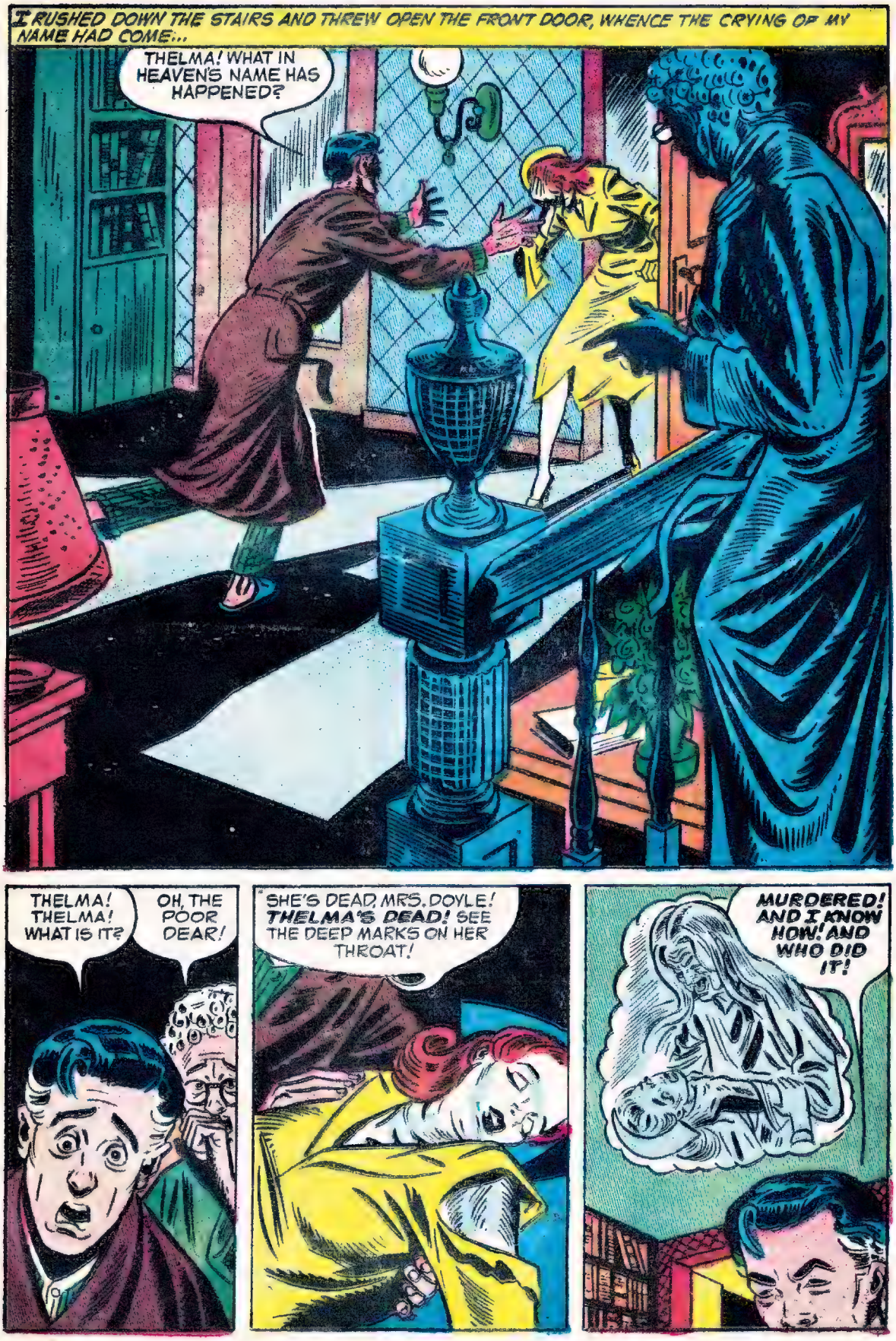
I HAD BEEN TOO MUCH CONCERNED WITH THE DISGUSTING CONDITIONS IN WHICH I HAD FOUND MYSELF TO REALIZE THE PRESENCE OF THE STRANGE BEAUTIFUL CREATURE WHO NOW CONFRONTED ME.


YOU HAVE KILLED MY MOTHER! KILLED HER! JUST AS SURELY AS IF YOU HAD RUN A SABER THROUGH HER HEART!
OH COME, NOW, IT'S NOT THAT BAD! A BEAUTIFUL GIRL LIKE YOU SHOULD LAUGHING.. HAPPY! NOT GETTING OVER WROUGHT ABOUT DANGERS THAT DON'T EXIST!

YOU'VE BROUGHT THIS ON US, DOCTOR! IT IS YOU'RE FAULT... WHATEVER HAPPENS! SO TAKE MARA AWAY! GO QUIETLY! GO QUICKLY! EVEN NOW IT MAY BE TO LATE! GO... GO! GO!...
YES, THAT MAY BE BEST!

Weird Terror #4, March 1953. Artist unknown. Publisher: Comic Media.


BUT FIRST YOU MUST TAKE THESE PILLS, MRS. HOLGA! THEY WILL QUIET YOUR NERVES. WHEN YOU WAKE UP YOU'LL FEEL BETTER!
YES, GIVE THEM TO ME! PERHAPS I WON'T KNOW WHEN... THEY COME!
DOCTOR, IF I COULD SEAL UP THE WINDOWS AGAIN.. PERHAPS...
NO, MARA. YOUR MOTHER NEEDS THE AIR. COME, SHE'LL FEEL BETTER AFTER SHE HAS SLEPT!
"I RETURNED HOME AT ONCE WITH MARA WHOM I PLACED IN THE HANDS OF MRS. DOYLE, MY HOUSE-KEEPER...
MARA WILL NOT WANT HER WINDOWS OPEN TONIGHT. SHOW HER THE LARGE REAR BEDROOM. AND PERHAPS SOME WARM MILK FOR HER.
OF COURSE, DOCTOR! COME, DEAR!
THEN I TELEPHONED THELMA...
ARE YOU AVAILABLE FOR A CASE TONIGHT, THELMA? IT'S REALLY AN EMERGENCY!!
YOU KNOW I WILL IF YOU WANT ME TO, JOHN!
"I PICKED THELMA UP AT HER APARTMENT AND EXPLAINED THE CASE TO HER AS I DROVE TO THE EAST SIDE...
I'M CONCERNED ABOUT LEAVING YOU HERE, DEAR. BUT THERE IS NO ONE ELSE I WOULD TRUST TO HANDLE THIS WOMAN PROPERLY. SHE'S A MENTAL CASE. NO DOUBT OF THAT!
JOHN, STOP WORRYING. I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
"I FELT RELIEVED WHEN I LEFT THELMA WITH MRS. HOLGA. THE WOMAN WAS SLEEPING BUT I KNEW SHE WOULD NEED SPECIAL CARE. THE NEXT DAY I WOULD HAVE HER HOSPITALIZED HOME AGAIN, I RETIRED AT ONCE AND SLEPT SOUNDLY UNTIL 3 A.M. WHEN...
JOHN... JOHN... JOHN... JOHN...
GOOD HEAVENS ...THAT'S THELMA!


I RUSHED DOWN THE STAIRS AND THREW OPEN THE FRONT DOOR, WHENCE THE CRYING OF MY NAME HAD COME...
THELMA! WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME HAS HAPPENED?
THELMA! THELMA! WHAT IS IT?
OH, THE POOR DEAR!
"SHE'S DEAD, MRS. DOYLE! THELMA'S DEAD! SEE THE DEEP MARKS ON HER THROAT!
MURDERED! AND I KNOW HOW! AND WHO DID IT!

"THE POLICE ALSO FOUND MARA'S MOTHER PALE AND DEAD IN HER MISERABLE ROOM. AND A SENSE OF GUILT HUNG LONG IN MY CONSCIENCE, FOR I KNEW THAT UNWITTINGLY, I HAD BEEN TRAGEDY'S GUIDING SPIRIT. AS THE MONTH'S PASSED I EASED MY OWN DEEP SORROW BY TRYING TO HELP MARA. ONE NIGHT...

MARA, CHILD, WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND THE OPERA TONIGHT?

GO OUT? IN THE NIGHT AIR, DR. ATWOOD?

I MUST GO TO MY ROOM, DOCTOR! I FORGOT THE TIME! IT'S ALREADY DARK!

FORGIVE ME! PERHAPS I FORGOT!

"I HAD NOT FORGOTTEN ANYTHING! I HAD NOT ALLOWED MYSELF TO CORRECT HER HABITS IN ALL THESE MANY MONTHS, FOR I FELT I WAS DEALING WITH A STRANGE MENTAL BLOCK, AND THAT NIGHT BY MY SUGGESTION I WAS HOPING TO BREAK IT DOWN. I FOLLOWED HER TO HER ROOM...

MARA... WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

"THE LOOK OF TERROR THAT CAME INTO HER EYES MADE ME FEEL LIKE A BRUTE. I RUSHED TO HER AND TOOK HER IN MY ARMS. ONLY THEN DID I REALIZE HER TRUE LOVLINESS...

MARA! MARA! OH MY DEAR! MY DEAR! I--I LOVE YOU!

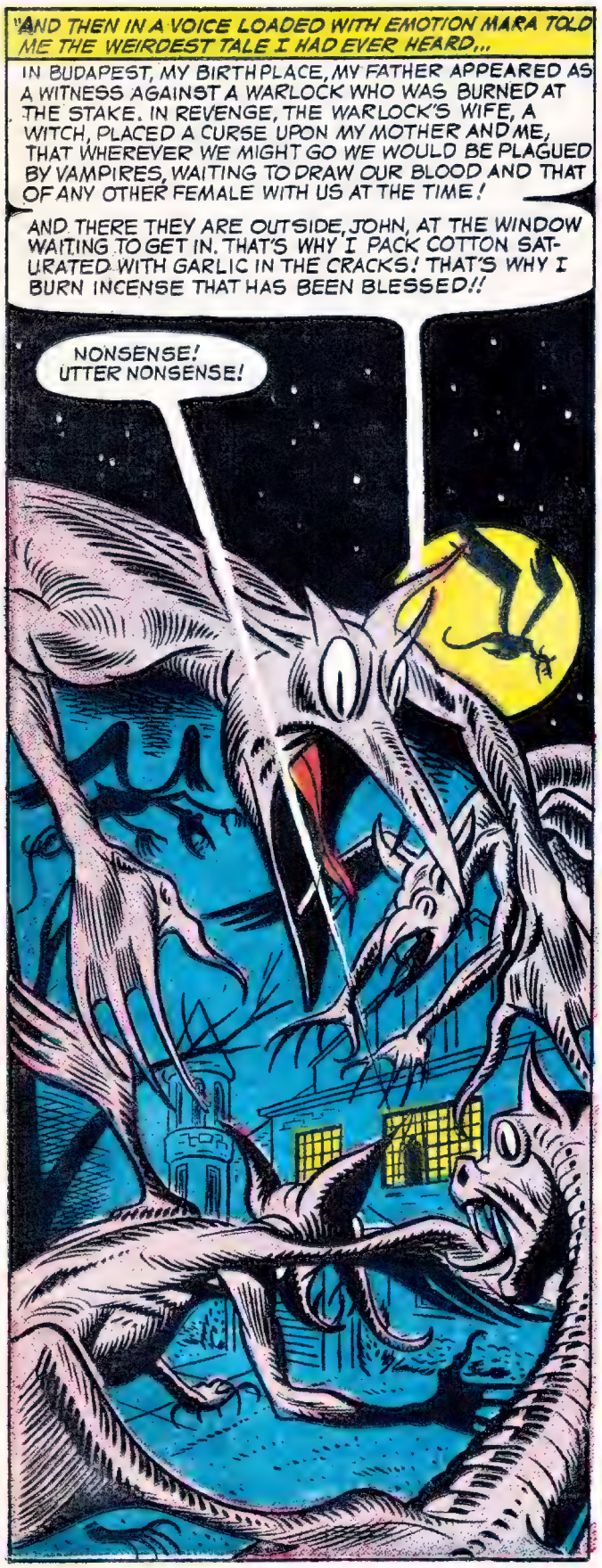
OH! AND I LOVE YOU, TOO, WHEN YOU DON'T TRY TO FRIGHTEN ME!

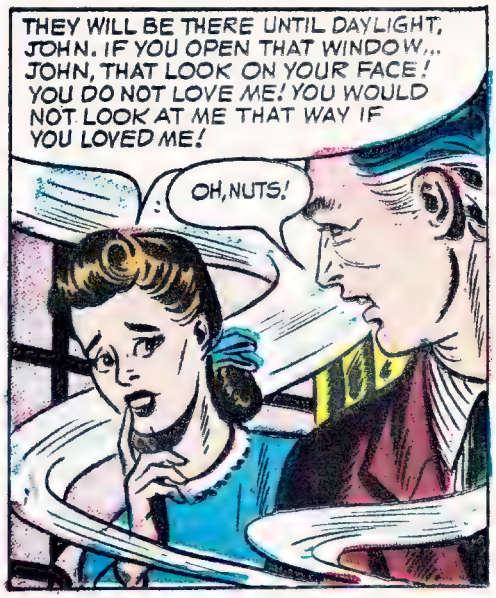
"AND SO, MARA AND I BECAME MAN AND WIFE!

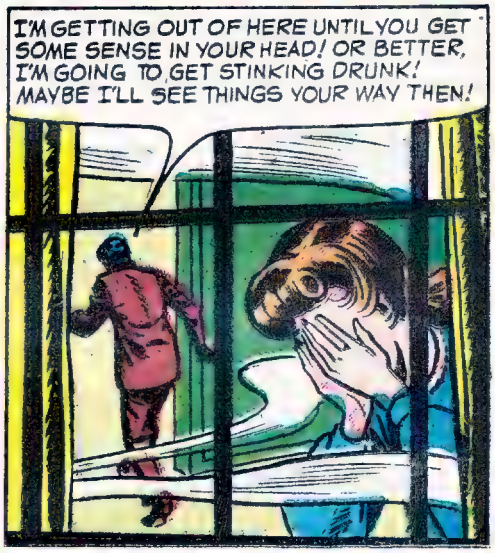
"IT IS ONE THING TO EXERCISE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE WITH AN ILL PATIENT; IT IS QUITE ANOTHER THING TO DO THE SAME WITH YOUR WIFE! I HAD BEEN EXTREMELY BUSY ONE DAY ABOUT A MONTH AFTER OUR MARRIAGE. THAT NIGHT...

CONFOUND IT, MARA! STOP THIS NONSENSE, WILL YOU? I WANT FRESH AIR IN THIS BEDROOM! DO YOU UNDERSTAND!

AIR? NIGHT AIR?

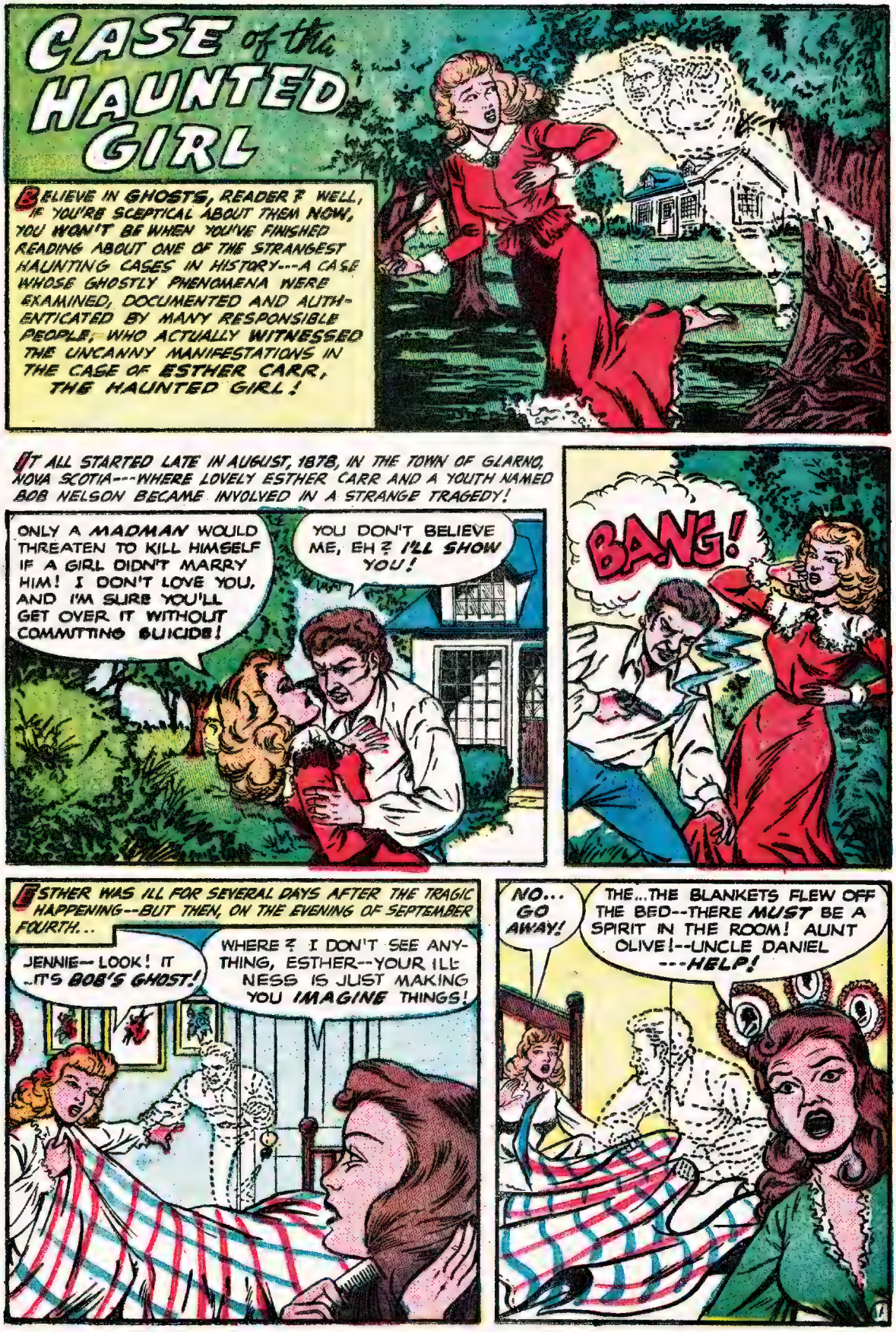

"AND THEN IN A VOICE LOADED WITH EMOTION MARA TOLD ME THE WEIRDEST TALE I HAD EVER HEARD...
IN BUDAPEST, MY BIRTHPLACE, MY FATHER APPEARED AS A WITNESS AGAINST A WARLOCK WHO WAS BURNED AT THE STAKE. IN REVENGE, THE WARLOCK'S WIFE, A WITCH, PLACED A CURSE UPON MY MOTHER AND ME, THAT WHEREVER WE MIGHT GO WE WOULD BE PLAGUED BY VAMPIRES, WAITING TO DRAW OUR BLOOD AND THAT OF ANY OTHER FEMALE WITH US AT THE TIME!
AND THERE THEY ARE OUTSIDE, JOHN, AT THE WINDOW WAITING TO GET IN. THAT'S WHY I PACK COTTON SATURATED WITH GARLIC IN THE CRACKS! THAT'S WHY I BURN INCENSE THAT HAS BEEN BLESSED!!
NONSENSE! UTTER NONSENSE!


THEY WILL BE THERE UNTIL DAYLIGHT, JOHN. IF YOU OPEN THAT WINDOW... JOHN, THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE! YOU DO NOT LOVE ME! YOU WOULD NOT LOOK AT ME THAT WAY IF YOU LOVED ME!
OH, NUTS!


I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE UNTIL YOU GET SOME SENSE IN YOUR HEAD! OR BETTER, I'M GOING TO GET STINKING DRUNK! MAYBE I'LL SEE THINGS YOUR WAY THEN!

NEVER MIND POURING IT BARTENDER. JUST LEAVE THE BOTTLE AND THE GLASS!

YOU LOOK AS IF YOU NEEDED CHEERING UP, SONNY. HOW ABOUT POURING A DRINK FOR LITTLE ME?
THAT'S THE MOST SENSIBLE THING I'VE HEARD A WOMAN SAY ALL EVENING!
"WE HAD QUITE A FEW DRINKS TOGETHER BEFORE TIME STARTED SLIPPING BY UNNOTICED...
WANT TO TRY YOUR LUCK ON THE DANCE FLOOR, SONNY?
I CAN STAND IT IF YOU CAN. LET'S GO!
WHAT DROVE YOU TO DRINK, SONNY? DID YOU FIND A GHOST IN YOUR BEDROOM?
A GHOST? A GHOST ...NO DARN IT! A STINKING VAMPIRE AND I'M JUST IN THE MOOD TO LET HIM HAVE ONE ON THE BUTTON!
"IT IS NOT QUITE CLEAR TO ME WHAT TIME I GOT HOME. IT WAS STILL DARK. I CAN REMEMBER CLEARLY BARGING INTO THE BEDROOM...
JOHN! OH, JOHN!
WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WHERE ARE THE LOUSY VAMPIRES?
I'LL SHOW 'EM!
CRASH!
WHERE ARE THEY? WHERE?
E-EEEEE!
"WHERE ARE THEY? I KEPT SHOUTING. BUT I SAW NOTHING, ALTHOUGH THERE SEEMED TO BE A RUSTLING IN THE AIR... SUDDENLY I SAW MARA'S FACE TURN DEATHLY WHITE--LIKE THELMA'S HAD BEEN. I STOOD SHOUTING...
MARA! MARA! DON'T DIE! DON'T DIE!
AND SO THAT'S IT, WARDEN... YOU THINK I'M LYING! YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME!
YOU TOLD ALL THAT AT YOUR TRIAL, DR. ATWOOD. I'M SORRY ON THAT STORY THE JURY CONVICTED YOU OF MURDER!
THE GUARDS ARE COMING NOW, DR. ATWOOD. I GUESS THIS IS GOODBYE!
THE END.


CASE of the HAUNTED GIRL
BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, READER? WELL, IF YOU'RE SCEPTICAL ABOUT THEM NOW, YOU WON'T BE WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED READING ABOUT ONE OF THE STRANGEST HAUNTING CASES IN HISTORY---A CASE WHOSE GHOSTLY PHENOMENA WERE EXAMINED, DOCUMENTED AND AUTHENTICATED BY MANY RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE, WHO ACTUALLY WITNESSED THE UNCANNY MANIFESTATIONS IN THE CASE OF ESTHER CARR, THE HAUNTED GIRL!
IT ALL STARTED LATE IN AUGUST, 1878, IN THE TOWN OF GLARNO, NOVA SCOTIA---WHERE LOVELY ESTHER CARR AND A YOUTH NAMED BOB NELSON BECAME INVOLVED IN A STRANGE TRAGEDY!
ONLY A MADMAN WOULD THREATEN TO KILL HIMSELF IF A GIRL DIDN'T MARRY HIM! I DON'T LOVE YOU, AND I'M SURE YOU'LL GET OVER IT WITHOUT COMMITTING SUICIDE!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, EH? I'LL SHOW YOU!
BANG!
ESTHER WAS ILL FOR SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE TRAGIC HAPPENING--BUT THEN, ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER FOURTH...
JENNIE--LOOK! IT ..IT'S BOB'S GHOST!
WHERE? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING, ESTHER--YOUR ILLNESS IS JUST MAKING YOU IMAGINE THINGS!
NO... GO AWAY!
THE...THE BLANKETS FLEW OFF THE BED--THERE MUST BE A SPIRIT IN THE ROOM! AUNT OLIVE!--UNCLE DANIEL ---HELP!

Adventures Into The Unknown #24, October 1951. Artist unknown. Publisher: ACG.

THE REST OF THE FAMILY RUSHED INTO THE SISTERS' ROOM--AND WHEN ESTHER'S AUNT TRIED TO REPLACE THE BEDCOVERS--

OHH!

I--I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES--HOW CAN THOSE BLANKETS MOVE OF THEIR OWN ACCORD? THIS *CAN'T* BE HAPPENING!

OOF!

CAN'T YOU *SEE* HIM---IT'S *BOB NELSON'S GHOST!*

THOROUGHLY ALARMED, ESTHER'S UNCLE CALLED IN THE FAMILY PHYSICIAN--AND WHEN HE ARRIVED...

HANDWRITING ON THE WALL--WITH *NO ONE* DOING THE WRITING! THIS IS NO HALLUCINATION--THERE'S A *SUPERNATURAL BEING* IN THIS ROOM! APPARENTLY ONLY ESTHER HERSELF CAN SEE IT--BUT *WE* CAN SEE WHAT IT *DOES!*

Esther Carr you are mine to Kill

THE STRANGE EVENTS KEPT ON OCCURRING DAY AFTER DAY--AND MANY NEIGHBORS CROWDED INTO THE HOUSE TO WATCH THE UNCANNY SIGHT OF LIGHTED MATCHES FALLING FROM THE CEILING, AND TO PUT OUT THE FIRES WHICH THE GHOST WAS CAUSING!

THINKING THAT THE GHOST WOULD ONLY PLAGUE ESTHER NEAR THE SCENE OF THE SUICIDE, HER UNCLE TOOK THE TERRIFIED GIRL TO THE HOME OF A FRIEND--BUT EVEN THERE...

HE...HE'S *HERE!*

EH? WHERE--*HEY*---WHO SNATCHED MY WHITTLIN' KNIFE?

OHHH!

ESTHER RECOVERED FROM THE BRUTAL ATTACK, AND WHILE SHE WAS CONVALESCING AT HOME, AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO CONVERSE WITH THE GHOST!

IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, BOB NELSON, GIVE A KNOCK FOR EACH PERSON IN THE ROOM!

TAP-TAP-TAP-TAP-TAP-TAP

MANY INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE CAME TO WITNESS THE EERIE PHENOMENA---AND FINALLY, A DOUBTING NEWSPAPER EDITOR WITNESSED A CONCLUSIVE TEST OF THE GHOST'S EXISTENCE!

IF THE SPIRIT OF BOB NELSON IS REALLY IN THIS ROOM, WE ASK HIM TO GIVE PROOF OF HIS PRESENCE--BY TAKING THESE THREE LARGE IRON SPIKES FROM ESTHER'S LAP AND HURLING THEM TWENTY FEET AWAY AGAINST THE OPPOSITE WALL!

IT...IT HAPPENED ---AND THOSE SPIKES ARE SUDDENLY RED-HOT!

CRASH!

ANOTHER DISTINGUISHED PERSONAGE WHO CAME TO DEBUNK THE GHOST THOUGHT UP AN INGENIOUS TEST...

BOB, I WOULD LIKE A MATCH, IF YOU PLEASE!

HELP! I BELIEVE IN YOU NOW--STOP!

INTRIGUED BY THE WIDE ATTENTION HE WAS RECEIVING, THE GHOST SOON FORGOT ABOUT TRYING TO HARM ESTHER CARR, AND KEPT ON GIVING DEMONSTRATIONS TO PROVE HIS EXISTENCE! FINALLY, ON JUNE 27th, 1879, HE MADE HIS FAREWELL PERFORMANCE---AND THE WHOLE TOWN GATHERED AROUND TO WITNESS THE INCREDIBLE SIGHT OF A TRUMPET HOVERING IN MID-AIR--AND BEING BLOWN BY AN INVISIBLE BEING!

AFTER IT WAS ALL OVER, 16 WELL-KNOWN TOWNSMEN SIGNED A SOLEMN TESTIMONIAL...

We, the undersigned, have absolutely known, seen, and heard demonstrations, manifestations, and communications of an invisible, intelligent and malicious power within the atmosphere that continued its awe-inspiring and mysterious operations in the actual presence of Esther Carr.

BELIEVE IN GHOSTS NOW, READER?

THE END

...I'M TELLING YOU, SERGEANT, I JUST CAME ONTO THE SUBWAY PLATFORM WHEN I HEAR THIS SCREAM FROM DOWN THE TRACK...
I RUN UP JUST AS SOMETHING CREEPS AWAY FROM THE BODY! IT WOULDN'T STOP SO I FIRED TWICE ...MUST HAVE MISSED IN THE DARK!
THEN I LOOKED AT THE GUY... SARGE! HE HAD ALL HIS CLOTHES ON... BUT HIS FLESH WAS GONE!
THERE WAS NOTHIN' BUT A SKELETON INSIDE THE CLOTHES!
SOME PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO TALK ABOUT IT! OTHERS LAUGH AND CALL IT RUMOR... HERE'S THE WAY IT WAS TOLD TO ME! EVER HEARD THE STORY OF...
THE SUBWAY TERROR!
EERIE
DEMEO
11

Mister Mystery #2, November 1951. Art: Mike Esposito. Publisher: Stanley Morse.

TAKE IT EASY, DAVE! I THINK YOU AND I BETTER TAKE A TRIP TO HEADQUARTERS! THE SQUAD WILL TAKE OVER!
DEPT. G
KNOCK KNOCK
COME IN, MURPHY!
LIEUTENANT, THIS IS PATROLMAN WHITLEY! HE WAS IN THE SUBWAY WHEN A TRACKWALKER WAS KILLED BY ONE OF THEM!
WHITLEY, YOU'VE STUMBLED ONTO ONE OF THE BEST KEPT SECRETS IN THE WORLD! YOU SEE, WE KNOW WHAT KILLED THAT MAN... WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING THEM EVER SINCE THE FIRST SUBWAY WAS BUILT!
A HIDEOUS RACE OF MONSTERS LIVE IN CAVERNS UNDER THE CITY... BUT HERE, LET ME SHOW YOU THE PRESERVED BODY OF THE ONLY ONE OF THEM EVER CAPTURED!
YAAAAAAA!!

WE IN DEPARTMENT G HAVE BEEN FIGHTING THESE BEASTS AND WINNING... BUT IT HAS BEEN A SECRET BATTLE... IF THE PUBLIC EVER FINDS OUT, THERE WILL BE PANIC AND RIOTING!
THE SUBWAYS MUST KEEP OPERATING OR THE CITY WOULD BE PARALYZED! WILL YOU TRANSFER TO DEPARTMENT G?
YES, SIR! I'LL DO ANYTHING TO HELP DESTROY THESE THINGS!
YOU MAY HAVE HEARD RUMORS OF PEOPLE DISAPPEARING FROM LONELY SUBWAY PLATFORMS OR MYSTERIOUS TRAIN WRECKS... THEY AREN'T RUMORS, BUT FACT! THESE RAIDS HAVE BEEN GETTING WORSE... THEY HAVE TO BE STOPPED!
THEY HAVE BROKEN THROUGH SOMEWHERE NEAR THIS STATION... TUNNELED UP FROM BELOW...
WE MUST FIND THAT TUNNEL OR ELSE!
DAVE WHITLEY'S TRANSFER WAS SOON ACCOMPLISHED AND HE WAS ASSIGNED TO A TWO MAN PATROL WITH ANOTHER POLICEMAN — ANDY BROCK...
THIS WILL BE MY FIRST DAY WITH DEPARTMENT G! THE LIEUTENANT SAYS WE'VE GOT THE SITUATION PRETTY MUCH UNDER CONTROL!
UNDER CONTROL! HAH! THERE'S NO END TO THOSE MONSTERS! WHY DO YOU THINK THE QUOTA ON RECRUITS WAS INCREASED AGAIN THIS YEAR?
JUST REMEMBER ONE THING, KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN... AND SHOOT FAST! IT'S EITHER YOU OR THEM... YOU NEVER GET A SECOND CHANCE! I'VE SEEN MORE... NEVER MIND... LET'S GO!
PD
3

WE USE THIS SECRET ENTRANCE TO THE TRACKS... IT'S IMPORTANT THAT PASSENGERS SHOULDN'T SEE US, OR EVEN SUSPECT ANYTHING IS WRONG!
POST FOURTEEN ...CHECK!
WE HAVE GUARDS AT ALL THE STATIONS IN THIS AREA... CAN'T RISK A PASSENGER GETTING SNATCHED FROM THE PLATFORM!
SSSSSSSSSS...
HEARD A NOISE... THROW YOUR LIGHT DOWN TH... LOOK!!
COME ON!
ANDY- BEHIND US!
GET OFF THE TRACK!
WUTHERING HEIGHTS EXP.
W
9

ROARR!
WUTHERING HEIGHTS EXP.
THRUMP! THRUMP! THRUMP!
BUMP BUMP
THRUMPTY BUMP!
ANDY! WHAT HAPPENED... WHERE ARE YOU?
BUMP BUMP BUMP
THAT TRAIL OF SLIME....IT LEADS UP TO THE ALCOVE WHERE ANDY WAS! THE THING MUST HAVE TAKEN HIM THROUGH THAT DOOR!
NO USE! IT WON'T OPEN! HAVE TO USE A GRENADE!
BROOM!
5

THERE HE IS! DROP HIM YOU FILTHY...!
HOLD ON, ANDY! I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THIS!
TAT TAT TAT
TAT TAT
ON THE DOUBLE... MEN! WHITLEY AND BROCK ARE IN THERE!
BLAM BLAM
WHEW! DIDN'T THINK WE'D MAKE IT!
POW POW BLAM
WE'RE SAFE NOW, ANDY. THE SQUAD WILL MOP THEM UP AND Y... ANDY! OH NO- NO!
WELL... WELL... POOR FELLOW, LOOKS LIKE ANDY DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANY-MORE! SEEMS AS THOUGH THOSE THINGS HAD A BONE TO PICK WITH HIM! AND IF YOU RIDE THE SUBWAY... MY ADVICE WHEN YOU GET OFF IS... RUN, DON'T WALK TO THE NEAREST EXIT!

***HAUNTED HORROR* AND *WEIRD LOVE* SPAWNED AN UGLY CHILD...**

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